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Canada's Greg Westlake, centre, is hit by Japan's Naohiko Ishida, left, and Noritaka Ito during the third period of Canada's semi-final sledge loss to Japan on Thursday at the 2010 Winter Paralympics in Vancouver. The upset means Canadian teams will fail to win all three hockey gold medals between the Olympics and the Paralympics. Story, page 17

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Mike Duffy says some students 'brainwashed'

CRITICISM Senator Mike Duffy isn't backing down on his criticisms of the University of King's College and other Canadian journalism programs, saying he "dared to show a little spotlight on some of the bias in the media."

Last weekend, Duffy delivered a speech to local Conservatives in Amherst criticizing journalism schools for teaching critical thinking and Noam Chomsky's book Manufacturing Consent. He also said students aren't being taught to be fair and balanced.

"They all get preached to with the same cookie cutter thing," Duffy told Tom Young's Afternoon News program on Rogers radio Thursday. "And when you talk to these kids in job interviews, you realize some of them have been brainwashed."

Metro Halifax again requested an interview with Duffy on Thursday, but didn't get a response.

METRO HALIFAX

MORE COVERAGE, PAGE 13

PAUL MCLEOD
paul.mcleod@metronews.ca



As the debate intensifies, the province has set a deadline on whether to fund a new convention centre for downtown Halifax. But that deadline could be worrisome for development advocates.

Infrastructure Renewal Minister Bill Estabrooks said Thursday he plans to bring the contentious issue of whether to support an estimated \$300-million convention centre on Argyle Street to his cabinet colleagues on April 19.

The date falls weeks after the provincial budget

will be released. That would seem to imply there's no convention centre money set aside for 2010-11, but Estabrooks said that's not necessarily the case.

"You can't take that as a given," he said. "To be truthful, I'm not sure of the details of it, but we're proceeding along as we make the final decision of whether this is going to be a go or not."

Estabrooks described the April 19 meeting as a "potential off-ramp" on whether or not to go forward with a new centre.



He also said there is no guaranteed money from the federal government, which could put much more strain on a province already running a half-billion dollar deficit.

Developer Joe Ramia is already underway demolishing the old Chronicle Herald and Midtown Tavern buildings to make room for the potential new trade centre.

Those for and against the centre have increasingly divided into camps in recent days. Trade Centre Limited estimates Nova Scotia has lost 70 conferences and \$4 mil-

lion in tax revenue over the last three years. One online petition to support a new centre has gained over 730 signatures in the last two weeks.

Meanwhile, the Coalition to Save the View from Citadel Hill released data Thursday from a University of Texas professor showing event attendance for conventions has been dropping.

According to the coalition, Dr. Heywood Sanders's research shows attendance dropped in the top 50 Canadian events by one-third between 1998 and 2008, despite exhibit space growing by 11 per cent.

**Justice Dept.
set to urge
arm's-length
investigations
of police**

COMMISSION Staff from the Nova Scotia Justice Department confirm they plan to introduce legislation this spring to create an arm's-length commission to handle investigations of police agencies.

There is no timetable yet for when the body would be in place to begin operations, nor is it known who would sit on the board. But Thursday Premier Darrell Dexter told reporters the agency could be outsourced to other Atlantic provinces.

Currently police rely on internal investigations or they can pass it off to another investigation. The tensions in that system came to light recently when the Nova Scotia RCMP claimed they couldn't discipline one of their officers who shot a Wagmatcook man to death because a Halifax Regional Police investigation had taken too long.

HRP rejected that claim, saying the RCMP could have launched its own review at any time. HRP spokeswoman Theresa Rath said Thursday the force very much supports an independent investigation unit.

"It places these types of investigations at arm's length and provides a board that's independent of police agencies," she said.

"We think it would really increase the public confidence in this process."

PAUL MCLEOD/METRO HALIFAX

MORE COVERAGE, PAGE 6

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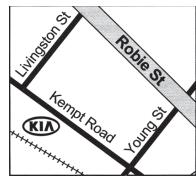
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Local



Michael Bolton hits Metro Centre

A large crowd of cheering women will no doubt greet singer Michael Bolton as he performs at the Halifax Metro Centre on Friday at 7:30 p.m. The Grammy-award winning artist who has sold over 50 million albums worldwide will be playing hit-after-hit from a career spanning four decades. Tickets are \$87.50, \$72.50 and \$52.50 and are available at all Ticket Atlantic outlets, online at ticketatlantic.com or by phone at 451-1221.

METRO HALIFAX

PHILIP CROUCHER

philip.croucher@metronews.ca



Halifax Regional Police are investigating a "very shocking" incident after a 19-year-old Dalhousie University student was grabbed from behind by a man while walking in south-end Halifax on Wednesday night.

Police say at 9 p.m., the female victim was walking alone on South Street near Henry Street when she

was grabbed by a man who attempted to pull her into an alley between two houses.

A man and woman walking by saw what was happening, police say, and inquired what was going on. Police allege this startled the suspect and the victim was able to escape.

Police say the victim reported the incident to police five hours later. She wasn't injured, but "very shaken."

"This is as alarming to

Any relation?

- Halifax Regional Police spokeswoman Theresa Rath said it's too early to tell whether this alleged incident is related to the person they are looking for in relation to a sexual assault in the Halifax's south end last month.
- In the early morning hours of Feb. 7, police say a 20-year-

old victim and her friend were walking home in the area of Queen and Morris streets when a man reached under the victim's skirt and touched her when he approached them. Police say the suspect later produced a small, pipe-like object and threatened both women.

police as it is to the public," commented police spokeswoman Theresa Rath. "We're going to do as much as possible to garner more information."

Nursing home lifts ban on visitors

VIRUS SCARE Capital Health has lifted restrictions at a nursing home in Musquodoboit Harbour, but is keeping them in place at a nursing unit at the Halifax Infirmary site of the QEII Health Sciences Centre in Halifax.

The nursing home was closed to visitors for almost two weeks after some patients and staff fell ill with norovirus-like symptoms.

On Monday, Capital Health announced four patients and one staff member at Nursing Unit 4.1 at the infirmary site were exhibiting symptoms of norovirus, also known as Norwalk virus.

METRO HALIFAX



RYAN TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX

Greenpeace activists carry a coffin with a cod head inside as they walk in front of the Queen Street Sobeys on Thursday. The group is urging Sobeys and other supermarkets to stop selling Atlantic cod to allow the fish stocks to recover.

Man facing charges after alleged road rage incident

CRIME A 26-year-old man has been charged in relation to an alleged road rage incident last week that saw the victim punched in the face and have his front driver's side window smashed out.

Halifax RCMP say the 26-year-old was arrested Thursday afternoon in relation to the incident last Friday evening on the St. Margarets Bay Road.

Police say a 20-year-old man was driving his 2005 Ford Escape westbound by Exit 2 near Highway 103 when a Honda Civic came along on the merge lane.

Police say the female driver of the Civic ran out of room, pulled behind the Ford Escape and tailgated

the vehicle.

The victim pulled over to let the car go by, say police, but the female driver stopped, got out and screamed at him to get out.

A male passenger then exited the Honda Civic and police allege the man came up and punched out the driver's side window and punched the victim in the face as he drove away.

Police say the suspect has been released and will appear in Halifax provincial court on May 26 charged with assault and mischief under \$5,000. No charges are being laid against the female driver.

PHILIP CROUCHER/
METRO HALIFAX

Ex-Herd goalie up on sexual assault rap

CHARGES Former Halifax Mooseheads goaltender Mark Yetman, facing three counts of sexual assault, two counts of choking and one count of threatening, will reportedly next appear in court on April 14 in St. Catharines, Ont.

The 21-year-old, who is in his home province of Newfoundland and Labrador on bail, was not present at a hearing in a St. Catharines court on Wednesday, according to the Niagara Falls Review.

METRO HALIFAX



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WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video Stephen Harper uses pre-G20 speech to affirm Ottawa's commitment to economic recovery and open trade at metronews.ca/canada

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Protest takes aim at Sobeys

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protest moved off the property at the request of Sobeys employees.

Greenpeace spokeswoman Sarah King, of Vancouver, said Sobeys has a responsibility to protect the species future.

"Atlantic cod stocks have seen declines over the past decades and we continue to fish them to death," King said. "As a Maritime company, (Sobeys) has an added responsibility to ensure a future for the seafood that they sell... They should be stewards of the ocean, not fishing them to death."

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King added Sobeys was not the only ones responsible for the decline in stocks, but said they were the only retailer that refused to act on Greenpeace urgings to address the problem.

"Everybody has a responsibility," she said. "The Department of Fisheries and Oceans sets the quotas. They set it from pressure from the fisheries. And the fisheries are fishing it because consumers and retailers want to sell it."

Representatives from Sobeys did not return calls on Thursday.

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Police say two men were punched and kicked by four people after an altercation on Spring Garden Road around 8 p.m. on Wednesday. Police say the victims were also sprayed with an aerosol substance, possibly pepper spray. One of the victims also had his iPod stolen. METRO HALIFAX

RCMP's Operation Hawkeye to check for theft-prone vehicles

PREVENTION Halifax RCMP will start checking vehicles in neighbourhoods during the evening and overnight hours to see if they're prone to theft.

Titled Operation Hawkeye, the new program will see officers check vehicles to see how secure they are and if any valuables are left in view, which could lead to theft.

Police say they have seen an increase in theft from vehicles over the past several months — many of which take place overnight when vehicles are parked in driveways or on streets in front of residences.

"We're going to be out patrolling on foot, checking

"It seems there are always people out there breaking into vehicles. It's just a crime of opportunity for them."

Cpl. Joe Taplin, police spokesman

neighbourhoods and checking vehicles," said police spokesman Cpl. Joe Taplin.

He said the program would last through the summer and possibly into fall. Taplin said if a vehicle isn't secured properly or is prone to theft, officers would get in contact with the vehicle's owner during the day to ad-

vise them of what they saw.

Taplin said from December through February, Halifax RCMP received 188 complaints from vehicles being broken into. There were 76 complaints from both Cole Harbour and Sackville, 20 from Tantallon and 14 from Musquodoboit.

"It seems there are always people out there breaking into vehicles," he said. "It's just a crime of opportunity for them."

Police are reminding the public that tips to avoid being prone to theft include locking your vehicle and putting valuables out of sight, preferably into one's residence.

PHILIP CROUCHER/METRO HALIFAX



Finance Minister Graham Steele speaks with reporters in this file photo from last year. Steele is telling government departments to avoid the rush on spending that occurs near the end of the fiscal year.

Minister orders stop to 'March madness'

NDP not following own directives: Opposition

PAUL MCLEOD
paul.mcLeod@metronews.ca

The province is putting a halt to "March madness" spending by civil servants, says Finance Minister Graham Steele.

A letter to senior bureaucrats dated March 4 from the treasury board directs them not to make any unplanned year-end spending.

Steele said the letter was meant to defuse the idea that if departments don't spend their entire budget it will be cut down the following year. He said he heard at almost every Back To Balance meeting with the public they believe departments go on a spending spree in March.

"We do want to make sure civil servants get the message that the kind of spending where you spend money for the sake of spending money will not be tolerated," he said.

Steele said the treasury board is keeping close watch and if frivolous spending is discovered it will be dealt with on an individual basis.

The Liberals were unconvinced the letter would be enough.

Several tenders went out in recent days with deadlines right before the March 31 end of fiscal year. One tender for the first phase of Bluenose II restoration was posted March 18 and closes just four days later.

Many tenders end in the

two days before the fiscal year ends, including contracts for portable radios and to carpet and floor of ice buildings.

Liberal Leader Stephen McNeil said the most egregious spending was the NDP topping up the Industrial Expansion Fund — an economic development pot controlled by cabinet — with \$75 million at the beginning of this month.

"If it didn't come out of departments, he's borrowed the money. And that's end of the year spending," McNeil said.

"It's pretty rich for Graham Steele to be telling civil servants to live within their budgets when their own government's not doing it."

Railway says it needs 5-year subsidy to survive

CAPE BRETON A railway that serves Cape Breton has told the Nova Scotia government it needs \$2 million annually for the next five years to keep operating.

Percy Paris, the minister of economic development, says RailAmerica Inc. informed him the only rail service between Nova Scotia's mainland and the island could close without the assistance.

He says he'll bring the proposal to cabinet, but no decision has been taken yet on the Cape Breton and Central Nova Scotia Rail-

Service

- The railway runs 392 kilometres of track between Sydney and Truro and it interchanges with the Canadian National Railway at Truro.

way's future.

"If they don't get the money I would suspect what will happen is ... that they will just let the spur (line) go, to wherever spurs go when they die," said the cabinet minister.

The government recently ended a subsidy to a catamaran ferry service

that travelled from Yarmouth to Maine.

Paris says he will do a separate assessment on the train service and decide whether provincial funds are required to keep it running.

He says the company's current five-year agreement with the province is set to expire in a few weeks and the assessment on the proposal should occur in that time period.

"We are evaluating it now ... that will be in front of cabinet in the next few weeks," he said.

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Bail hearing for accused in murder case Friday

A decision on bail for Ashley Haley, charged in the death of Jennifer Horne, could be decided Friday at Nova Scotia Supreme Court. METRO HALIFAX

local

5



A firefighter stands by a car that flipped over several times near Truro on Thursday morning, killing one man and sending two others to hospital.

Hockey coach killed in Brookfield crash

A Cumberland County hockey coach has been identified as the victim of Thursday morning's fatal car crash in Brookfield.

While police didn't release the name on Thursday, sources have identified the man as Mike St. Peter, a hockey coach with the Parrsboro Predators peewee hockey team, who lived in the Maccan area.

"They were on their way to Halifax for a hockey tournament," Colchester County RCMP Sgt. Al Afleck said.

Kevin McCrindle, who coached with St. Peter, said the team knew something was wrong when neither he nor his son showed up for the start of the game in Cole Harbour.

"We were on the ice when one of the parents came over to the bench and told us about it. One of the parents got a call from

"Some of the players were trying ... but they couldn't get a hold of him."

Kevin McCrindle, fellow coach

one of the people in our association who heard about it," McCrindle said.

"Some of the players were trying to get a hold of him before the game. They were texting his son but they couldn't get a hold of him," said McCrindle, adding St. Peter loved coaching and was highly thought of by the players.

St. Peter, 49, was pronounced dead at the scene following a single-vehicle crash at 7:34 a.m. on Highway 102 between the Brookfield and the Truro Power Centre exits. The car hit the shoulder of the road and rolled over three times before coming to rest in the southbound lane.

St. Peter's wife, who was driving the car, and his 12-year-old son were taken to Colchester Regional Hospital treated and released before noon.

Traffic was backed up near the Truro Power Centre overpass following the accident. Police closed the road and rerouted traffic to Highway 2 for about three hours to investigate and clear the scene.

A mechanical inspection is being done to try to determine what caused the crash. The driver of the vehicle told police she heard "a pop" and the mechanical inspection was to determine items, including, if a blown tire caused the crash.

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6 local

Police say a man had cash stolen from him while walking around Robert Burns and Brule streets in Dartmouth Wednesday night. Police say a male suspect punched him in the face and went through his pockets. METRO HALIFAX

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HRP report into shooting death baffles band lawyer

The lawyer for the Wagmatcook First Nation says a Halifax Regional Police report that cleared an RCMP officer of any criminal wrongdoing in a fatal shooting failed to make logical conclusions based on the facts it uncovered.

Gary Richard, the Truro-based lawyer who represents the band in the community, submitted a 10-page legal analysis of the report Thursday to the Wagmatcook council on the Dec. 2, 2008, shooting death of John Simon.

He highlighted the police report's finding that Const. Jeremy Frenette

Probe launched

- The RCMP complaints commission has launched an investigation into the shooting and the national force's handling of the incident.

was told to "stay put" and wait for an emergency-response team to arrive from Halifax.

Frenette instead entered Simon's house and ended up shooting the allegedly suicidal and intoxicated man three times, though HRP concluded he

did so in self-defence.

Richard said he can't understand why the HRP report doesn't emphasize Frenette's failure to follow the original plan.

"What the report ignores is there was a proper coherent operational plan in place that evening which, if followed, would have likely resulted in a resolution of the circumstances that didn't involve shooting an emotionally distraught man three times and killing him," Richard said in his report.

Richard said he was confused by a conclusion in the report that says

Frenette was not given "concise directions and/or a plan ... to successfully resolve a critical incident."

"This is a frankly baffling statement," Richard said. "Staff Sgt. (Archie) Thompson gave notably concise directions and a plan at the outset of the incident: 'Sit tight, ERT was on the way.'"

Richard said it's questionable Frenette was within his rights to climb through the window of Simon's house and confront the 44-year-old man.

HRP declined comment.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

N.B. premier accuses media of unfair coverage

SPAT The premier of New Brunswick is blaming the media for what he says is unfair coverage of his government.

Shawn Graham took a swipe at reporters Thursday, saying they don't put the Opposition under the same scrutiny as his governing Liberals.

"The media has not done its job in the province of New Brunswick in asking the Opposition what their alternatives would be," he said.

"The media has not done its job in the province of New Brunswick in asking the Opposition what their alternatives would be."

Premier Shawn Graham

Graham said the Conservatives have to be taken to task on issues such as post-secondary education and the future of NB Power.

For weeks, Graham has been calling on Tory Leader David Alward to produce his plan for the

debt-laden utility.

Graham is proposing to sell 10 power plants to Hydro-Quebec for \$3.2 billion under a deal that would freeze residential power rates for five years and cut rates for large industrial customers by 23 per cent.

But Graham has faced public opposition over the plan, with protests and petitions urging him to drop the deal.

He hopes to finalize the agreement with Quebec by May 21.

"We provided our plan, we're the only political party that has done so, and that's why it's reflected today in the polls," Graham said.

One recent poll suggested Graham was the least popular premier in Canada.

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G20 must pursue bank reform: Harper

PM lays out market guidelines at 'sherpas' meeting

The G20 nations must keep trade markets open, strengthen banking regulations and nurture a sustained and balanced recovery from the world economic crisis, Prime Minister Stephen Harper says.

Those were the priorities Harper laid out for the "sherpas," the senior bureaucrats who are holding two days of meetings in Ottawa to lay out the agenda for June's economic summit in Toronto.

Harper said recovery is by no means fully assured,

Harper's G20 suggestions

• Harper laid out five guidelines he said the G20's chief negotiators should follow, including balancing stimulus measures with exit strategies, building on a global framework for "balanced and sustainable" growth, ad-

vancing reforms to international financial institutions, and keeping markets open. Harper also said it's time to look beyond the crisis measures that have driven world economies for the last year or so.

and he said the G20 will be judged not just by its ability to respond to crisis, but also "its capacity to lead the world through recovery and beyond."

Harper said it's natural

for countries to defend their interests, but he said those must be "enlightened" and take into account the overall, long-term needs of the global economy. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Canadians safe after boat hits reef in Galapagos

ACCIDENT Sixteen Canadian tourists exploring the Galapagos Islands were rescued from a reef after the yacht they were travelling on ran aground, the tour operator said Thursday.

Fernando Diez, public relations manager for Quazar Expeditions in Ecuador, said the yacht Alta struck the reef at 8:30 p.m. Wednesday while trying to dock at Puerto Ayora in Ecuador.

The accident was caused in part by lack of illumination from a lighthouse that was unexpectedly darkened, he said, but the cap-



This photo released by Galapagos National Park shows the grounded Alta yacht in the Galapagos Islands Thursday.

tain should have been able to avoid the accident. The

passengers were safely evacuated. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Afghan documents debate heats up

OTTAWA The opening shots have been fired in the Commons in what could become a bitter war over Parliament's right to know and the government's right to keep secrets.

Opposition MPs have fumed for months over the government's refusal to hand over documents on the Afghan detainee issue. They now are seeking a formal ruling from the Speaker that the refusal is a violation of parliamentary privilege. They say the government is mocking parlia-



Bob Rae

mentary rights that date back centuries by denying MPs access to the material.

Liberal Bob Rae says national security is a concern for all MPs, but there are ways to maintain it while allowing them to do their jobs. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Senior Mountie defends gun registry after government criticism.

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THE CANADIAN PRESS

Atlanta-based Graco Children's Products Inc. is recalling 1.2 million high chairs, including about 35,000 sold in Canada, because of possible problems with the legs. The Harmony chairs were produced from November, 2003, through December, 2009, and the model numbers may begin with the letter A, B, C, or D. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

EU gives polar bear hunters a break

U.S.-backed bid to ban trade in bear parts is thrown out

Canadian Inuit got some help from an unlikely corner Thursday when the European Union rejected a motion to ban the international trade of polar bear parts.

The result assured the defeat of the U.S.-backed proposal.

"I think that's great," said Chucky Gruben, a polar bear hunter from Tuktoyaktuk, N.W.T.

"I'm glad to hear this was defeated."

The EU has angered the Inuit in the past over issues such as the seal hunt.

But on Thursday it was the union's 27 member states voting in a block at the 175-nation Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species that prevented polar bear skins from being put in the same category as elephant ivory.

"It's basically the EU that stood in the way," said Teresa Telesky of Humane Society International, who is at the meeting in Doha, Qatar. "If it hadn't been for the EU,

"On first reaction, it's a very good sign for us."

Mary Simon, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami we would have won this debate."

If the motion had passed, it would have placed further obstacles in the way of the economically valuable sport hunt and completely ended the ability of Inuit hunters to sell the skins of animals they kill for meat.

Mary Simon, head of Canada's national Inuit group Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, was pleased with the news but cautious.

"On first reaction, it's a very good sign for us," she said from Ottawa. "There is a possibility the U.S. could come back to revise the rejected proposal and put it to a vote."

But Christine Eustis, a spokesperson for the U.S. delegation, said that's unlikely.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



JOEL HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

A polar bear mother and her two cubs survey the scene in Wapusk National Park on the shore of Hudson Bay near Churchill, Man. Inuit got some help from an unfamiliar source Thursday when the European Union voted against a motion to ban the international trade of polar bear parts.

News in brief

OILSANDS Suncor Energy Inc. says it has received approval from Alberta's energy regulator to expand its Firebag oilsands project near Fort McMurray. Suncor — which merged with former Crown corporation Petro-Canada last August — said Thursday the

Alberta Energy Resources Conservation Board has approved its application to develop three additional stages of the project. Each of the three new stages has a planned production capacity of approximately 62,500 barrels per day, Suncor said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Widow's testimony blocked

FILIBUSTER Conservative MPs are preventing the widow of former Rights and Democracy president Remy Beauregard from testifying at a Commons committee.

Suzanne Trepanier has

requested permission to appear at the Foreign Affairs committee to defend her husband's record and provide her version of events she believes contributed to his fatal heart attack following an agency board meeting in January.

Rights and Democracy, a taxpayer-funded agency, has been in turmoil for months as factions on the board battled over three small grants to Middle East

groups that are critical of Israel.

The committee must agree to the witness list and Conservative Jim Abbott has begun a filibuster to prevent the issue from coming to a vote.

Abbott said hearing from Beauregard's widow "would be an emotional reaction to a situation over which this committee has absolutely no control."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

THE CANADIAN PRESS

TV ombudsman may help you?

VIEWING A special outlet for public beefs about cable companies is among measures expected in a major decision next week by the federal broadcast regulator, say industry insiders. There is talk of a new ombudsman, insiders say.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Somali pirates abandoned a hijacked Iranian vessel and set its 19-man crew free yesterday after encountering an Italian warship just off the coast of Somalia, NATO said. The transport was hijacked five months ago. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World



Beach butts

California lawmakers yesterday were considering the nation's toughest smoking law, a ban on state parks that aims to get unsightly cigarette butts off the beach, eliminate second-hand smoke and reduce the threat of wildfires. Maine banned smoking at its state beaches last year, but no state prohibits lighting up throughout its entire park system.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stage set for U.S. health vote

Democrats desperately hoping for Sunday passage of contentious bill

Democratic leaders unveiled what is expected to be their final health-care bill Thursday, setting the stage for a Sunday vote on a plan that would affect most Americans and has become the defining issue in Barack Obama's presidency.

Leaving nothing to chance, the White House announced Obama has put off his planned trip to Asia

for a second time, delaying it until June. Obama was to have left Sunday.

Said House Speaker Nancy Pelosi: "He wants to be here for the history."

The plan would cost \$940 billion US over 10 years and extend coverage to 32 million Americans who are uninsured, while reducing the federal deficit by \$138 billion over 10 years, the impartial Congressional

Budget Office said, and continue to drive down red ink thereafter. Democratic leaders said the deficit would be cut \$1.2 trillion in the second decade.

The plan would restructure one-sixth of the U.S. economy in the biggest expansion of the social-safety net since Medicare, a government-run health plan for the elderly, was created in 1965.

Although the vote is expected Sunday, passage is still not assured. With Republicans unanimous in opposition, Obama needs to win over moderate House Democrats, some of whom are wary about the plan's costs and abortion provisions.

Still, Obama appears on the verge of a victory on the signature issue of his presidency, just two months af-

ter it appeared all but dead. Democrats in January lost a Senate seat in a special election, denying them the 60-vote supermajority needed to overcome Republican blocking tactics. But Democrats are using a complicated legislative strategy, over strenuous Republican objections, to get the bill through both the House and Senate.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sex.com auction cancelled

BANKRUPTCY The suitors for Sex.com have been put off for now.

An auction for the much-sought-after domain name was cancelled after three creditors filed a petition forcing the owner into bankruptcy.

Mike Mann, an investor with all three creditors, said the petition was filed to stop the auction. According to the petition, the creditors have a combined \$10.1-million claim. Selling the domain name at an auction was not going to enhance its value, he said.

"It's gone way up in value," he said. "It's the most valuable domain in the world. They were throwing away the world's most valuable domain asset."

Escom LLC paid a reported \$12 million to \$14 million for the domain name in 2006, but was unable to repay the debt. The lender ordered the foreclosure sale.

Richard Maltz, whose company is handling the sale, declined to give specifics on interested parties, which included People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rocket kills farm worker near Gaza

JERUSALEM Palestinian militants fired a rocket at Israel from the Gaza Strip yesterday, killing a Thai farm worker, Israeli medics said, in the first death from such an attack since the Gaza offensive last year.

Magen David Adom, the emergency service, said the man was about 30 years old and was working in an agricultural community just north of Gaza, one of the tens of thousands of foreign labourers doing manual jobs in Israel.

A small Islamist faction calling itself Ansar al-Sunnah claimed responsibility for the attack. The Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades also later claimed responsibility.

Yesterday's attack came on the same day as a visit to Gaza by Europe's top diplomat, EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton, who had just crossed into the territory.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lebanon Hoping to live happily ever after



Auschwitz thieves jailed up to 2 years

POLAND A Polish court convicted three men Thursday of the theft of the notorious Arbeit Macht Frei (Work Sets You Free) sign from the Auschwitz memorial site in December.

The men, two of whom are brothers, got prison sentences ranging from 18 months to two years.

In footage from court, the men's faces were blurred, and each expressed regret in stealing the sign. The court identified them only as Radoslaw M., Lukasz M., and Pawel S., in keeping with Polish privacy laws.

The theft occurred in the night between Dec. 17 and Dec. 18, a brazen heist that

shocked Holocaust survivors and others committed to preserving the Auschwitz-Birkenau site. A Swedish man with a neo-Nazi background, Anders Hogstrom, is also a suspect and in custody. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Police force used during Nigerian man's deportation

SWITZERLAND Swiss police say a Nigerian died at Zurich airport as he was being forced to board a plane for deportation back to his home country.

Zurich police say the 29-year-old man died Wednesday after being shackled to go on the plane with 15 other

Nigerians whose asylum bids had been rejected.

Police said in a statement yesterday they had to use force to shackle the man because he refused to board the plane. The shackles were taken off and a doctor tried to save the man's life when he suddenly showed

health problems. He had been on hunger strike for several days. Swiss authorities have cancelled all forced deportation flights pending an inquiry. Amnesty International says it was the third such death in Switzerland since 1999.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Puerto Rican panhandler stabs woman with needle

Police in Aguadilla, Puerto Rico, arrested a panhandler who stabbed a woman with a hypodermic needle when she declined to give him money. Police said Thursday the victim had pulled to a curbside to feed her baby when 32-year-old Marcos Ramos Ortiz approached and asked her for \$5. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Proposed tuna ban defeated at UN wildlife trade meeting

A U.S.-backed proposal to ban the export of Atlantic bluefin tuna prized in sushi was rejected Thursday by a UN wildlife meeting, with scores of developing nations joining Japan in opposing a measure they feared would devastate fishing economies.

It was a stunning setback for conservationists who had hoped the 175-nation Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, or CITES, would give the fish a lifeline. They joined the proposal's sponsor Monaco in arguing that extreme measures were necessary because the stocks have fallen by 75 per cent due to widespread overfishing.

"Let's take science and throw it out the door," said Susan Lieberman, director of international policy with the Pew Environment Group in Washington. "Clearly, there was pressure from the fishing interests."

As the debate opened, Monaco painted a dire picture for a once-abundant species that can grow to as big as 1,500 pounds. It has been done in by the growing demand for raw tuna for traditional dishes such as sushi and sashimi.

"This exploitation is no longer exploitation by traditional fishing people to meet regional needs,"

Rich fish

- The bluefin tuna — called "hon-maguro" in Japan — is particularly prized with a 200-kilogram Pacific bluefin tuna fetching a record 20.2 million yen (\$220,000 US) last year.

Botswana's new strict dress code

REGULATIONS Shorts, tight skirts and suggestive T-shirts are out and, in stifling local temperatures, men must wear long-sleeved shirts, according to new dress regulations for civil servants issued by Botswana authorities.

In an arid, largely desert nation where daytime temperatures soar to 38 C the government has said that its employees in breach of the dress code face unspecified disciplinary action.

No reason was given by the nation's traditionally conservative officials.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Monaco's Patrick Van Klaveren told delegates. "We are facing a real ecosystem collapse."

But it became clear that

the proposal had little support. Only the United States, Norway and Kenya supported the proposal outright. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

News in brief

CHURCH A Roman Catholic bishop in Ireland ordered a priest Thursday to remain silent over his views that church officials should not tell police about child abusers within the church. Bishop Dermot Clifford said Monsignor Maurice Dooley, an expert in

Catholic canon law, must not speak publicly again about the church's rules on confidentiality. Dooley has repeatedly spoken out this week in defence of Irish Cardinal Sean Brady, a former classmate who is facing pressure to resign for failing to tell police about his knowledge of secrecy.

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Teen's case linked: Cops

The case of an Italian teenager who disappeared in 1993 has returned to the spotlight after decomposed remains believed to be hers were discovered in the church where she was last seen, police said Thursday.

At the same time, an unsolved 2002 murder in Britain has resurfaced, with British police linking their case with the disappearance of the teen.

Elisa Claps vanished from her hometown of Potenza on Sept. 12, 1993 at the age of 16.

She was last seen in the Most Holy Trinity church in downtown Potenza with an acquaintance, Danilo Restivo, who later acknowledged that he had spent about 10 minutes in the church with her before leaving.

Restivo has denied wrongdoing. He remains under investigation in the case, his lawyer Mario Marinelli said Thursday. He said his client was living in Britain and was calm.

Police in Dorset, meanwhile, linked the disappearance of Claps with the slaying of a British woman, Heather Barnett, whose mutilated body was found by her two children in the bathroom of her home in Bournemouth in 2002. "Strands of cut hair, not belonging to her, were placed in her right hand," the police statement said. Police linked the two cases in a statement.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Elisa Claps



KAMAL ISEBREK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Sammy, the four-metre long female whale shark, swims inside a giant aquarium at the Atlantis hotel in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, in this 2008 file photo. The resort hotel on one of Dubai's man-made islands said Thursday that it has freed the whale shark whose captivity had been criticized by environmentalists.

Dubai resort frees whale shark

ANIMALS A resort hotel on one of Dubai's manmade islands said Thursday it has freed a whale shark whose captivity had been criticized by environmentalists.

The Atlantis hotel on the city-state's Palm Jumeirah island said it released the four-metre female shark into the Persian Gulf, but did not provide documentation.

Whale sharks, the largest fish in the world, are considered a threatened species.

Atlantis vice-president Steve Kaiser said in a written response to questions the animal has been fitted with a satellite tracking tag to record its position for research purposes.

He said the shark was in good health when it was released Thursday morning off the east side of the palm-shaped island, one of several artificial islands off the city-state's coast. Out-

siders were not invited for the safety of the shark, he said.

"The health and well being of the animal has always been our number 1 priority," Kaiser said in response to questions from The Associated Press about the release. "The seasonal elements affecting water temperature, salinity and migratory patterns were perfect for enhancing her survival in the open ocean."

Employees outside the hotel's massive aquarium, which contains 65,000 fish, stingrays and other sea creatures, said they had been instructed not to speak to the media about the shark.

The hotel is run by Bahamas-based Kerzner International in partnership with a division of Dubai's struggling state-run conglomerate Dubai World.

Environmentalists began calling for the shark's release shortly after the hotel announced it had rescued it from the shallow waters off Dubai's coast in 2008.

The huge fish also brought the luxury marine-themed hotel's centerpiece aquarium considerable publicity.

A hotel gift shop continued to sell Atlantis-branded toy models of the whale shark late Thursday afternoon.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Russian-built plant to start up

IRAN Prime Minister Vladimir Putin said Thursday that Iran's new Russian-built nuclear power plant will begin operating this summer, even as the United States called for Russia to delay the startup.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, in Moscow on an official trip, urged Russia not to start up the plant until Tehran

proves that it's not developing atomic weapons.

But Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, at a joint news conference with Clinton, immediately responded that Russia would put the reactor online.

Putin, who is expected to meet with Clinton Friday, was on a trip to southern Russia when he said Moscow was committed to

starting operations at the Iranian atomic power plant.

"The first reactor at Iran's nuclear power plant in Bushehr is to be launched already in the summer," Putin said.

He didn't mention an exact startup date or add any other details during his meeting with nuclear officials.

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Comment

Huffing and puffing about nothing

UrbanCompass

Stephen Kimber



To paraphrase a famous American: I knew Mike Duffy, senator, and you're no Mike Duffy.

I couldn't help thinking that as I read Halifax Metro's account this week of Duffy's inane, ill-tempered and spectacularly

ill-informed rant about the King's College Journalism School to 60 Cumberland County Conservatives. Full disclosure: I teach at King's.

"Kids who go to King's, or the other (journalism) schools across the country, are taught from two main texts," Duffy huffed. Those texts are Noam Chomsky's Manufacturing Consent and some other unnamed tome on the "theory of critical thinking," which, to Duffy, appears to mean subversive.

"When you put critical thinking together with

Noam Chomsky," Duffy puffed, "what you've got is a group of people who are taught from the ages of 18, 19 and 20, that what we stand for, private enterprise ... is bad."

Uh... Earth to Mike: Noam is not on the curriculum at King's. And critical thinking? What were you thinking? What were you drinking?

"When I went to the school of hard knocks," Duffy explained, taking refuge in the last refuge of any guy who is long past

his best-before date, "we were told to be fair and balanced. That school doesn't exist any more."

Yes it does, Mike. It's called journalism school. We still teach that fair-and-balanced mantra your soft Senate sinecure has long since hard-knocked out of whatever was left of your own critical thinking. Only we do it far better now.

Trust me on that. I may teach in what you consider an effete journalism school, but I learned my



Mike Duffy

trade in the same hit-and-miss school of hard knocks you did.

The irony — worth remembering if only for the sake of nostalgia — is that Mike Duffy was once a very good reporter. When I was a junior journalist at CJCH Radio in Halifax in the early '70s, Duffy was a star at CHNS, our bitter cross-town rival. He was energetic, driven. His skepticism about everyone and everything — call it critical thinking — made him an equal-opportunity skewerer of all he encountered. Fair and balanced?

Somewhere along the line, however, Duffy gave up thinking, let alone critically. He even used his last journalistic bully pulpit at CTV to brazenly audition for the ultra-soft-knock job of Tory senator. By the time he'd officially become a wind-up toy for Stephen Harper, he'd long since become a parody of the journalist he once was. Pity.

I knew Mike Duffy, and you, senator, are no Mike Duffy.

Stephen Kimber, the Rogers Communications Chair in Journalism at the University of Kings College, is the author of eight books.

Views

Want to survive a fire? Take a look up

Marketplace

Erica Johnson



metronews.ca/johnson

Geri and Peter Crawshaw thought they had picked out a great retirement home in Orillia, Ont., for Peter's aging mom Betty — until a fire broke out last year and she suffered major smoke inhalation. Four other residents died.

What they learned too late was, the home wasn't equipped with sprinklers — a device firefighters say is key to controlling not just flames, but smoke. Smoke is what kills most people in a fire.

"I never gave it a

thought. I never looked up," said Geri Crawshaw. And who would?

But in a national survey of older nursing homes and retirement homes, CBC Marketplace discovered a patchwork of regulations when it comes to sprinklers in older homes, leaving tens of thousands of seniors with no protection.

In Ontario, three deadly fires have led to three coroner's inquests, all calling for sprinklers to be installed retroactively in long-term care homes. Three times, those calls have been ignored by the Ontario government. Newly built homes must have sprinklers, but not older ones.

But sprinklers are just one thing to look for if you're considering putting

a loved one in a long-term care home. We've put together some tips to help you navigate the waters.

Visit in person. Be sure to visit the home and talk to people who live there, or who have family in the home. Do more than one tour and show up unannounced. Ask to see different floors in a home, including any locked areas. And visit at different times of day, including during meals, and at night.

Check compliance reports. Your province may have reports online for long-term care homes that will tell you about potential problems.

Ask about staffing levels. What's the staff-to-resident ratio? Does it change at night? Ask to see what the fire evacuation plan is overnight.

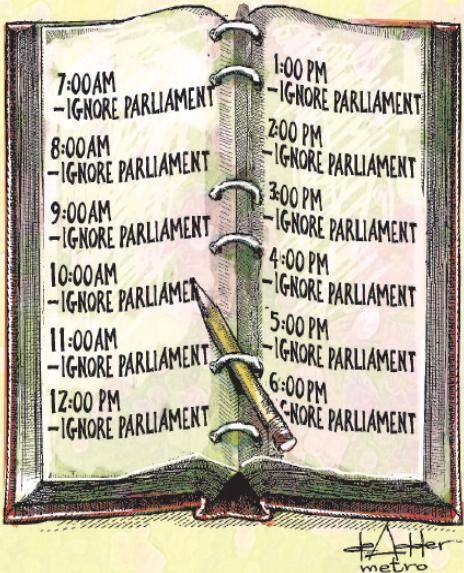
Talk to people. If the home has a family council, talk to the people who sit on the board.

Look up. If the home doesn't have sprinklers, ask why not and whether they might be installed soon. Ontario fire chiefs — and their counterparts in other provinces — have been calling for older homes to be retroactively fitted for sprinklers for years. Ask your elected politicians why that hasn't happened.

Friday night on CBC Television at 8:30, watch what happens when Marketplace sets two rooms on fire — one equipped with a sprinkler, the other without.

Erica Johnson is a journalist and co-host of Marketplace, which airs each Friday night at 8:30 on CBC Television.

STEPHEN HARPER'S DAY-TIMER



MICHAEL DEODOR

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Canadian residents made 4.2 million trips outside of the country in January, 1.5 per cent fewer than in the previous month. Statistics Canada reports trips to both the United States and overseas destinations decreased compared with December. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Economy taking off?

Signs good, but economists are cautious

Foreigners are buying up Canada, the loonie is heading for parity with the American dollar and recent economic indicators are off the map. Could the recovery be out-racing expectations?

The prime minister is a skeptic, and so too are economists at the TD Bank, who released a forecast yesterday of moderate growth for the next two years.

Craig Alexander,

The bank TD Bank says Canadians shouldn't

get overly excited about the surprisingly strong five per cent fourth quarter of 2009 jump, and likely strong numbers coming for the first three months

this year.

"The basic story is the economic recovery is real — we are not going to have a double dip (stump) — but the economy is not going to boomerang," said TD's deputy chief economist, Craig Alexander.

In an address to G20 bureaucrats Thursday morning, Prime Minister Stephen Harper voiced a similar message, saying the recovery is "by no means fully assured."

Since last summer, the economy has produced 159,000 jobs, replacing just over a third of the 417,000 jobs wiped out during the 2008-2009 recession.

But while analysts say it is wise for governments to remain cautious about the recovery, a growing number of economic observers are also starting to rethink the modest, steady growth scenario.

Merrill Lynch chief economist Sheryl King says she would not be surprised if Canada experienced a "triplet" of five per cent quarters — last quarter of 2009, first and second quarters of this year. Although King says things must slow after that.

And the Bank of Montreal's Douglas Porter believes if there is an economic surprise this year, it's that growth will be significantly stronger than the official forecasts of about three per cent.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Mobile New player joins the game



THE CANADIAN PRESS/DARREN CALABRESE

Public Mobile Inc. CEO Alek Krstajic announces the opening of 25 stores during a press conference in Toronto yesterday. The new wireless player, Public Mobile, will launch in Toronto and Montreal in mid-May, offering unlimited talk and text for \$40 a month.

Nafta trade dropped sharply over last year

ECONOMY Last year's collapse of the North American auto sector caused trade with the U.S. and Mexico to suffer its worst year since the North American Free Trade Agreement went into effect 15 years ago, the U.S. Transportation Department said yesterday.

Although trade ended the year on a good note, it fell by 23.3 per cent overall in 2009 compared with 2008.

That marked the largest annual decrease since NAFTA went into effect in 1994 as the value of products that were shipped by truck, rail and pipeline between Canada, the United States and Mexico dropped to \$637 billion US in 2009.

The value of trade decreased by 31.1 per cent during the first six months of the year, and by 14.9 per cent in the second half.

The year ended with a 10.5 per cent increase in December compared with 2008, the only month that saw a year-over-year increase.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

One Toyota sign may be going up

MARKETING The new owners of the Chicago Cubs are working with automaker Toyota on a sponsorship deal that could put the company's logo on a sign hoisted high above the left field bleachers at Wrigley Field in time for the home opener next month.

The red-coloured 16-by-22-foot Toyota sign would partially block a sign for a casino on a roof across the street. "It's a way for us to generate additional revenue and preserve the history," said Wally Hayward, the Cubs' vice-president.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gas prices continue rise

ENERGY Pure Energy Services Ltd. booked a \$3.1-million loss in the first quarter as revenues weakened alongside lower natural gas prices. That compares with a profit of \$1.5 million a year ago. Revenue from continuing operations slipped to \$37.1 million from \$40.4 million as drilling and completion activity remained low across its North American operations. Pure Energy operates in Western Canada and in the United States through its wholly owned subsidiaries.

Pure Energy Services Ltd. noted that some of the company's customers experienced tighter lending conditions, which also left a mark on their quarterly results.

Gasoline prices tend to move higher in the spring as more drivers hit the road and refiners shut down units for maintenance, as they prepare to make more expensive summer blends of gasoline with fewer smog-causing emissions.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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THE CANADIAN PRESS

business 15

Oil industry profits set to rise to \$8B: Board

Oil industry profits will see a big boost this year as some of the cost-dampening effects of the recession linger, according to a forecast by the Conference Board of Canada.

However, the business think-tank cautioned the price of labour and materials is poised to rise in future years as the pace of development picks up in the oil-sands.

"The recession had one positive effect — costs in the industry have come down precipitously," said the report released Thursday.

Numerous oilsands producers began to put their multibillion-dollar projects on hold in late 2008, as the recession whittled away at demand for fossil fuels and made it too costly for companies to borrow money.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Revenue

- Revenues for the industry are forecast to be \$69.9 billion this year, only slightly higher than 2009, but are expected to climb an average of more than 14 per cent each year for the next four years, hitting nearly \$120 billion in 2014.
- Costs in the industry have come down precipitously this year. That's two-thirds higher than the \$4.9 billion the industry eked out last year, but still half what it raked in at the height of the boom in 2008. The Conference Board doesn't expect a return to boom-time profits of \$16.1 billion until 2014, when crude prices are expected to be \$114 US per barrel.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MGM Who takes lion's share?



In this July 2002 file photo, the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer logo graces the entrance gates at their Santa Monica, Calif., offices. MGM Inc. is preparing to receive binding acquisition offers Friday as it again looks for a corporate saviour for its troubles.

A tale of two recoveries

ECONOMY For the super-rich and everyone else, the economic recovery is taking place in two very different gears.

A British company is betting there's a market in North America for a \$200,000 US sports car built with Formula One race technology, announcing Thursday it will unveil the new toy late next year.

"Following any recession, there's a resurgence," said Ron Dennis, chairman of McLaren Automotive. "We intend to catch that wave."

For most people, though, the economy's still a clunker. A new U.S. Labor Depart-

"Following any recession, there's a resurgence."

Ron Dennis,
McLaren Automotive

ment report said more than 11 million Americans are now getting unemployment benefits.

The number of first-time claims for unemployment fell last week for the third time in a row, a sign the job market is slowly healing. But claims remain above levels that would signal the economy is generating new jobs.

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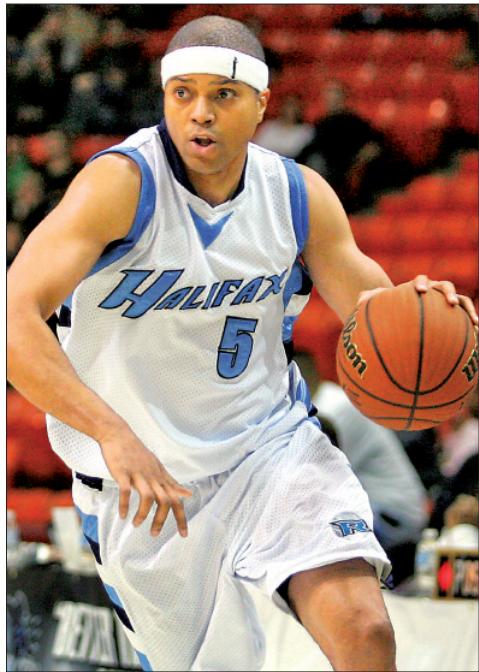
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Sears

Sean Couturier, who was named QMJHL scoring champion on Wednesday after a tiebreaking review against Nicolas Deschamps, was named the league's offensive player of the month for March Thursday. The 17-year-old Drummondville Voltigeurs forward had 12 points in five games. METRO HALIFAX

Sports

EDITOR: DON.MCHOUILL@METRONEWS.CA



Halifax Rainmen three-point specialist Desmond Ferguson.



Bearcats and Crushers to square off

Yuri Cheremetiev, left, and the Truro Bearcats will face the Pictou County Weeks Crushers in the Maritime Junior A Hockey League's Bent Division final, starting Saturday. Cheremetiev is one of three former Halifax Mooseheads on the Bearcats, along with Eric Louis-Seize and Ben MacAskill.

METRO HALIFAX

Rainmen ready

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

When the Halifax Rainmen were supposed to host the Puerto Rico Capitanes three weeks ago, it was billed as a battle for first in the Premier Basketball League.

How things have changed.

The Rainmen are fighting for their playoff lives — a scenario that seemed inconceivable on Feb. 26 when Puerto Rico couldn't fly in to Halifax because of inclement weather — and the Capitanes are suddenly stronger than ever.

During the past three weeks, the Rainmen have fallen from 9-2 to 9-5, while the Capitanes have gone from 12-1 to 14-2, clinched a playoff spot and bolstered their roster

with the signing of former NBA centre Courtney Sims and the unexpected return of PBL double-double king Angelo Reyes.

The outcome of Sunday's clash at the Metro Centre could determine whether the Rainmen are the contender they looked like a month ago or a pretender at risk of being surpassed by the fifth-place Vermont Frost Heaves (7-7).

"We want to come out there and get a big victory on them and let them know that if we see you in the playoffs, we can get y'all," said Rainmen forward John Strickland.

It's been a brutally tough stretch for the Rainmen. Since their last home game on Feb. 20, they've lost three overtime nail-biters, including last Saturday's 115-113

setback against the two-time defending champion Rochester RazorSharks.

"Real tough" Strickland said. "Especially that last one. It really hurt."

But a little adversity might not be the worst thing for the Rainmen.

"This is a challenge," said Rainmen three-point specialist Desmond Ferguson. "We're not looking to lose four games in a row, we're not looking to lose our first home game, so we're going into this game excited and ready to play."

With nearly 6,000 tickets reportedly sold for Sunday's game, a record crowd could be on hand.

"There ain't nothin' like playin' in front of the home crowd to get us goin,'" Strickland said. "That's going to be good for us."

New Capitanes could pose a big challenge

SHOWDOWN The Rainmen's big men — something of an Achilles heel this season — will have their hands full on Sunday.

The Rainmen, who host the first-place Puerto Rico Capitanes at 2 p.m., will have to find a way to stop six-foot-11 Courtney Sims and six-foot-eight Angelo Reyes.

Sims, who was last year's D-League MVP, is averaging 22.8 points and 11.0 rebounds. He wasn't in the lineup when the Capitanes beat the Rainmen in January.

Reyes is averaging 18.8 points and a whopping 15.1 rebounds.

"Those are easily some of the best bigs in the league," said Rainmen centre John Strickland. "For me and our bigs, that's a gigantic challenge."

METRO HALIFAX

Showtime for SMU men's hockey team

SEEDING The Saint Mary's Huskies will be the third-seed at the University Cup as they take another crack at a national title.

The Huskies, who won their second straight Atlantic University Sport championship last week with a convincing sweep over the St. Francis Xavier X-Men, are in a pool with the second-seeded McGill Redmen and sixth-seeded Manitoba Bisons at the Canadi-



an Interuniversity Sport men's hockey championship.

The Huskies open the tournament on Friday at 3 p.m. against the loser of Thursday's McGill-Manitoba matchup.

They play the winner of that game on Saturday at 3 p.m. on Rogers Sportsnet.

If they win their pool, they advance to Sunday's 8 p.m. final, also on Rogers Sportsnet. METRO HALIFAX

They say it wins championships...

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

CONUNDRUM The Halifax Mooseheads' strength is on defence — but as fate would have it, defencemen are looking like the consensus bets at the top of the QMJHL draft.

So when the Mooseheads pick either first or second overall in June's draft, they will take a long look at the likes of Dominic Poulin, Jeremy Fraser and Justin

Hache.

"There are some excellent defencemen out there in the draft who can step right in," said Mooseheads head coach and general manager Cam Russell.

The Mooseheads are clearly building from the back end out. Goaltender Mathieu Corbeil is entering his 19-year-old campaign and the defence corps is loaded with youth.

Konrad Abelthauer, Garrett Clarke, Steve Gillard and Sawyer Hannay

are the backbone of the unit. Jamie Bishop and Trey Lewis also factor into the equation.

Scoring, however, is a desperate need.

The Mooseheads would either have to pass on a top defenceman to pick a forward, trade down to acquire other assets and use a lower pick on a forward, or use the pick on a top defenceman and deal one of their young blueliners to bring in scoring punch.

Creativity will be re-quired, and Russell will look at all of his options.



"We're not just going to build up our defence for one season and go for the Cup in two years. We want this to be an ongoing process where we're doing this every year."

What's your number?



Mayweather-Mosley fight will be clean ... at least their blood will be

Floyd Mayweather Jr. and Shane Mosley have agreed to undergo Olympic-style drug testing for their May 1 fight in Las Vegas, which they hope will set a new standard for boxing. The Olympic-style testing the fighters agreed to includes random blood tests before and after the fights, and will be overseen by USADA. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Phil Nkrumah of the Cape Breton Capers drives the lane during last weekend's AUS basketball championship.

It's crunch time for Cape Breton

The Cape Breton Capers are taking their first stab in 15 years at a Canadian Interuniversity Sport men's basketball championship.

The Capers punched their ticket to this weekend's Final 8 at Scotiabank Place in Ottawa by downing the St. Francis Xavier X-Men 94-77 in the Atlantic University Sport men's basketball championship at Centre 200 in Sydney last Sunday.

"A lot of our players are more hungry," said Phil Nkrumah, a fourth-year Capers forward. "We're anxious."

Added Capers head coach Jim Charters: "We're going to go at it hard. This time of year, you just have to play when the ball goes up or you go home."

For the second-round Capers, tip-off is Friday at 1:30 p.m. in their quarter-final match against the No. 7-seed Calgary Dinos. The match will be webcast live on Streaming

"We're going to go at it hard. This time of year, you just have to play when the ball goes up or you go home."

Jim Charters
head coach,
Cape Breton Capers

Sports Network Canada. The Dinos lost 96-83 to the Saskatchewan Huskies in the Canada West final.

"They're experienced and they're really big," Charters said.

"Calgary's a pretty tough draw."

Charters said some of his players suffered from cramping during the AUS final due to fatigue and the intensity level of the Atlantic championship.

"And Jimmy Dorsey played on a bad ankle last week," Charters said of the AUS championship

MVP, who scored 35 points in Sunday's final.

"You wouldn't know it. It didn't seem to hold him back too much. This time of year, all kinds of guys are banged up, but you just tape up or do what you need to, to go out and do your best."

And pushing them to do their best will be the fans — a busload of CBU students, university staff, family of Ontario players such as Nkrumah, and former Capers living in the Ottawa area will be cheering the team on.

"They really helped push us through," Charters said of the fans' role in the AUS win.

"And we should have a really good, strong orange contingent here Friday."

CAPE BRETON POST

sports 17

CIS honours top basketball players

AWARDS Andrew Sullivan of the Dalhousie Tigers has been awarded the Ken Shields Trophy as Canadian Interuniversity Sport's outstanding student-athlete in men's basketball, and for his commitment to community service.

Sullivan, a fifth-year guard, averaged 10.1 points per game last season and stands second in Dalhousie history with 391 career assists.

Halifax's Christian Upshaw of the St. Francis Xavier X-Men was named a first-team all-Canadian, while Joey Haywood of the Saint Mary's Huskies earned a spot on the second team.

Phil Nkrumah of the Cape Breton Capers picked up defensive player of the year while Josh Whyte of the British Columbia Thunderbirds was named the country's most outstanding player.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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The Final Eight CIS men's basketball championship schedule

Friday: Quarter-finals

- (7) Calgary vs. (2) Cape Breton, 1:30 p.m.
- (6) Lakehead vs. (3) UBC, 3:30 p.m.
- (5) Saskatchewan vs. (4) Windsor, 7 p.m. (TSN2)
- (8) UQAM vs. (1) Carleton, 9 p.m. (TSN2)

Saturday: Semifinals

- Quarter-final winners, 12:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. (TSN2)

Sunday: Final

- Semifinal winners, 7:30 p.m. (TSN2)

Canada shocked in sledge hockey

PARALYMPICS There will be no Canadian hockey hat trick in Vancouver.

Canada was upset 3-1 by Japan in the Paralympic sledge hockey semifinal Thursday.

The Canadians were looking to complete the gold-medal sweep after the men and women won their respective titles at the Olympics last month.

Canada will now go for bronze on Friday. They face the loser of the Unit-

ed States-Norway semifinal.

Japan has played Canada 12 times since Hockey Canada started overseeing the sledge team program in 2004 but had never won until Thursday.

Takayuki Endo scored twice for Japan while Daisuke Uehara had the winner.

Marc Dorion scored the lone goal for Canada.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

... but has a great day in other events

GOLDS It was a gold-medal bonanza for Canada at the Paralympics Thursday.

Alpine skier Lauren Woolstencroft won gold in the women's standing downhill, while visually impaired cross-country skier Brian McKeever captured his second gold in the 10-kilometre classic race.

Viviane Forest of Edmonton also took gold in the women's downhill for the visually impaired.

Canada now has six gold, three silver and three bronze.

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18 sports**Sports in brief**

NHL The NHL came down hard on James Wisniewski, handing the Anaheim Ducks defenceman an eight-game suspension Thursday for his hit on Chicago's Brent Seabrook. It's the longest suspension handed out this regular season. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

SCOREBOARD**NHL****THURSDAY'S RESULTS**

Atlanta 6 Ottawa 3
Toronto 2 New Jersey 1 (SO)
Buffalo 6 Tampa Bay 2
Carolina 4 Washington 3 (OT)
Pittsburgh 3 Boston 0
St. Louis 4 NY Rangers 3
Phoenix 4 Florida 3 (SO)
Nashville 5 Minnesota 0
Philadelphia 3 Dallas 2
San Jose at Vancouver
Chicago at Los Angeles

NBA**THURSDAY'S RESULTS**

Orlando 108 Miami 102 (OT)
New Orleans at Denver

Field of Play

Scott Russell

metronews.ca/fieldofplay

There is a small, flat island 12 kilometres off the coast of Cape Town with an incredible soccer history.

Here the prisoners of South Africa's apartheid regime, including Nelson Mandela, broke rocks in a quarry as punishment for opposing racial segregation. Isaacs served time at Robben Island from 1964 to 1977. He and other prisoners subsisted on meagre

At Robben Island, the

country's white minority went about the business of degrading leaders of the African National Congress, who they considered to be terrorists.

"They attempted to dehumanize us from the start," Dr. Sedick Isaacs said as he walked slowly across the overgrown playing fields still baking in the hot sun and surrounded by razor wire.

"Once we got over here the guards began to assault us and told us we would never see home again."

Isaacs served time at Robben Island from 1964 to 1977. He and other prisoners subsisted on meagre

rations of porridge. They were regularly beaten and verbally abused by the guards.

But in the paltry library, they found a FIFA rule book and devised a plan to play soccer in an organized fashion; partly as resistance, but mostly to endure.

The result was the Makana Football Association, which required every prisoner to take part as either a player or an official. The International Red Cross was an ally in pressuring Robben Island wardens to allow the men time for exercise.

The prisoners responded by grading their own fields

and forming a three-division league, replicating the structure of international soccer at the highest level.

"Soccer was our survival," said Isaacs. "It was a moment of joy we anticipated. Once the games were over we would relieve them for the next few days, and by that time we could look forward to playing again the following Saturday."

Sedick Isaacs still gets flashbacks when he returns to Robben Island. He lost much of his spirit here, along with his youth. But he has strong feelings about soccer and the common ground he cultivated

with his fellow detainees.

Today, Robben Island is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Tens of thousands are expected to visit during this summer's FIFA World Cup.

While the most high-profile soccer ever played on African soil will unfold at stadiums like Green Point in Cape Town, perhaps the most significant games took place on this barren island just offshore.

Gemini Award winner and author Scott Russell is the Host of CBC Sports Weekend seen Saturday afternoons. A 20-year CBC Sports veteran, he has covered a variety of professional and amateur sports including nine Olympic games and numerous world championships.

Bruins get revenge, Pens get win**NHL RESULTS**

Penguins 3 Bruins 0



Marc-Andre Fleury made 17 saves for Pittsburgh's first shutout of the season in the Penguins' 3-0 victory over the Boston Bruins on Thursday night.

After their much-anticipated retaliation against Matt Cooke, the Bruins showed little passion despite fighting for a playoff berth. They are eighth in the Eastern Conference, three points ahead of the New York Rangers and Atlanta for the final spot.

Cooke, whose blindside hit sidelined Boston's Marc Savard indefinitely with a Grade 2 concussion in Pittsburgh on March 7, took the ice for the first time 1:53 into the game as fans booed loudly. Just five seconds later, he and Shawn Thornton brushed against each other in the faceoff circle to the left of the Penguins net.

They dropped their gloves and, in a brief exchange, traded punches before Cooke's helmet fell off and he went to the ice. Thornton, who kept swinging while Cooke was crouched in a vulnerable position,



Boston Bruin Shawn Thornton fights with Pittsburgh Penguin Matt Cooke early in the first period on Thursday.

was given a 10-minute misconduct. Both also received fighting majors.

After serving his penalty, Cooke skated back to his bench to more boos at 7:50 of the first period.

Then, just 44 seconds later, Tyler Kennedy scored his 10th goal of the season when he lifted a shot from the right circle over goalie

Tuukka Rask.

Alex Ponikarovsky made it 2-0 with 15 seconds left in the second period when he redirected a shot by Kris Letang. And Michael Rupp finished the scoring 5:14 into the third period when he skated alone up the right and beat Rask to the far side for his 13th goal.

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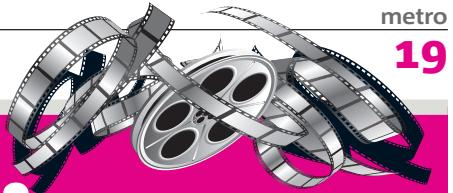
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Movies&Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Movies

Questionable bounty

Pg 20



The Bounty Hunter, starring Jennifer Aniston and Gerard Butler, tries to mix romantic comedy and car crashes. Read how it turns out.

Movies

Pg 21



Learn how to train a dragon in this 3-D fantasy flick.

Music

Pg 27



Thrush Hermet back for a small 'celebratory jaunt.'

Television

Pg 30



Lipton talks about painting an actor's self portrait on TV.

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20 movies&entertainment

MOVIES EDITOR: KUMAR.SAH@METRONEWS.CA

Bounty just fool's gold

The Bounty Hunter

Director: Andy Tennant

Stars: Gerard Butler,

Jennifer Aniston

Classification: PG

Rating:

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

The Bounty Hunter begins with Jennifer Aniston breaking free from the trunk of Gerard Butler's car. And once moviegoers see this film, the actress may consider crawling back in.

In this largely unfunny hybrid of a romantic-comedy/action flick, Butler plays Milo, an ex-cop turned bounty hunter who gets the call to track down his journalist ex-wife (Aniston) when she ditches out on a court appearance.

Thinking it will be easy money (he knows where she lives after all), Milo



Jennifer Aniston and Gerard Butler star in *The Bounty Hunter*.

traces her simply enough but soon the pair find themselves involved in a mysterious unsolved case, being chased by loan sharks and oops! Falling in love all over again!

Yes, it's as cooked up as a date movie can get but it wouldn't suffer as much had the script at least delivered a few zingers. It

doesn't.

Then again, Director Andy Tennant (*Fool's Gold*) isn't exactly known for a subtle touch.

Even so, trying to force a marriage of car chases and romantic-comedy may be the most questionable device.

After all, here it only ensures to divorce the audi-

On the web

- For movie trailers, photos and screen times, visit metronews.ca/movies

ence from investing in whatever mysterious affection these characters might feel for each other. It certainly isn't revealed through charming dialogue.

In fact, even Butler and Aniston appear to realize this concoction isn't going anywhere and it strains their questionable on-screen chemistry.

Moreover, the absence of comedy is only heightened by a seemingly endless mix of music whose distracting placement could easily be mistaken as the soundtrack to an entirely different movie.

Then again, that may have been just wishful thinking on my part.

Even gore can't save Repo Men

Repo Men

Director: Miguel Sapochnik

Stars: Jude Law, Forest

Whittaker, Alice Braga

Classification: 18A

Rating:

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

REVIEW If you like seeing graphic close-ups of torsos being torn open to remove vital organs, then *Repo Men* is a movie for you.

It seems like that's all director Miguel Sapochnik was interested in filming in his debut feature as he fills

screen with bloody entrails every few minutes.

Unfortunately Sapochnik is bored by simple pleasures like clear storytelling and compelling characters because every scene that doesn't feature gore is lazily assembled and often incomprehensible.

Set in a world where corporations specialize in producing prohibitively expensive artificial organs that require payment plans, Jude Law and Forest Whitaker star as a pair of repo men assigned to involuntarily remove organs from customers who are late on pay-

ments.

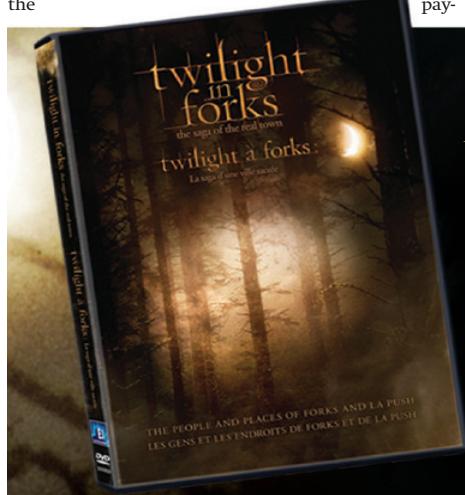
The concept is ripped off of a Monty Python sketch, but is clever enough to deliver consistent dark comedy for about 20 minutes.

Unfortunately this is a feature length movie and once Jude Law gets his own artificial heart and faces off against his former employers, things get increasingly absurd, to the point that any audience member with a brain will be forced to throw their popcorn at the screen out of sheer frustration.

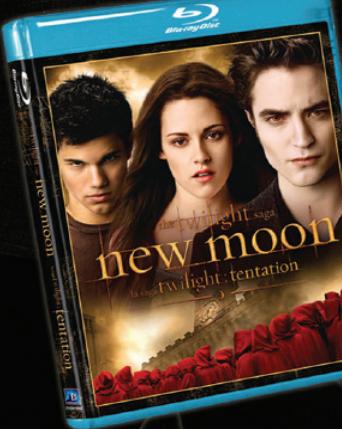
It all climaxes with one of the most ludicrous scenes ever caught on film in which Law and his new-

found girlfriend make out while tearing holes in each other to scan their artificial organs into a computer. Simply put, *Repo Men* is a disaster.

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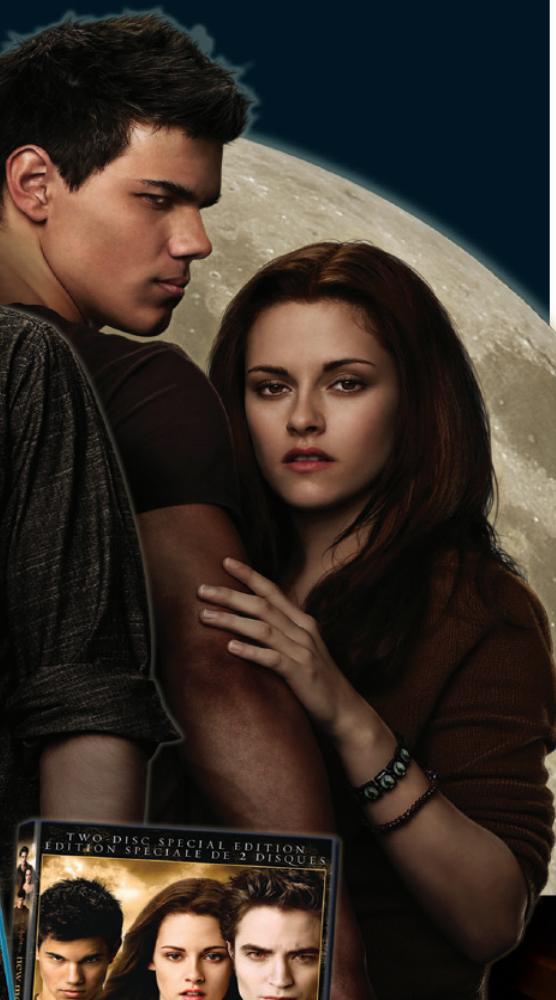
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Weekend, March 19-21, 2010

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At a glance

The Bounty Hunter ●, Repo Men ●, Diary of A Wimpy Kid ●●½, The Ghost Writer ●●●●

21

Movies

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Enter the Dragon movie

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

Filmmakers Dean DeBlois and Chris Sanders know how to make a dragon movie. And the animators proved it by directing the newest family adventure to hit theatres — *How to Train a Dragon*.

In the 3-D-animated comedy (which is based on a popular series of kids' books), Canadian actor Jay Baruchel voices Hiccup, a bumbling young Viking who gains the respect of his family and friends after he trains a dragon — the dreaded enemy of the Norse (at least in this film).

So what exactly are the secrets to making an animated dragon movie? We got the answers

How To
Train A
Dragon
opens next
Friday



Jay Baruchel lends his voice to *How To Train a Dragon*.

when DeBlois and Sanders (Lilo & Stitch) recently visited Toronto:

First, make good source material your own. "The world of the books differs considerably from what we did," said DeBlois who explained that they turned the author's "iguanasized dragon" into a menacing black monster. "We needed one that was powerful and dangerous... (the studio) ultimately wanted a big fantasy ad-

venture and so the elements were there but it took some hardline decisions."

Next, find a partner.

"(Chris and I) write together and we direct together and we just act as each other's toughest critics," explained DeBlois. "I trust his sensibility and he trusts mine ... it's like two soul musicians who write better music together than they do separately."

The film also featured more than 300 crew mem-

Movie feature

bers working over a brief 14-month schedule. "You have like fifty scenes out there at once that are in various stages of being produced so it's a marathon," added Sanders.

"You've got to keep your energy up so that's another reason to partner with somebody — there's just so much to do."

Finally, hire a great cast that includes Baruchel and Gerard Butler.

"They really worked their characters; they really want to get inside the heads of them," said DeBlois of a voice cast that also included talk-show host Craig Ferguson.

"It's a very draining thing strangely to stand in front of a microphone and do these lines over and over again and try to picture a scene that isn't really happening around you," added Sanders.

Wimpy Kid mere child's play

REVIEW

Sometimes you have to feel sorry for pint-sized young filmgoers. There are certainly plenty of movies out there

for kids, but most of them are incredibly bland exercises made by adults trying too hard to ensure that they don't offend children's delicate sensibilities.

For the most part this isn't done to please kids, but their parents who want to be sure they aren't warp-

ing young minds. This leads to countless projects like *Diary Of A Wimpy Kid*, a film that is sweet and has its heart in the right place, but offers no surprises.

Diary Of A Wimpy Kid is about a youngster embark-

Diary of a Wimpy Kid

Director: Thor Freudenthal

Stars: Zachary Gordon,

Robert Capron, Chloe Moretz

Classification: STC

Rating: ●●½

ing on his first year in middle school.

He's suddenly all too conscious of the need to seem cool and fit in, immediately embarking on a quest to raise his social status.

Of course, it all goes wrong and soon he's ruin-

ing amateur stage productions, fighting with bullies, working as a hall monitor, and participating in a few other kid movie clichés.

It's a slick production with some impressive work from the child actors (including Chloe Moretz, who will soon be seen taking out dozens of grown men as the world's youngest assassin in *Kick Ass*) and a nice message about individuality.

But sadly it's missing spark and creativity.

PHIL BROWN/
FOR METRO CANADA





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Weekend, March 19-21, 2010

Seyfried goes Ivy League

Amanda Seyfried, fresh from seducing everyone around her in *Chloe*, is planning a new film with McG, based on the Rolling Stone article *The Girl Who Conned The Ivy League*. EMPIREONLINE.COM

Movies

***** A CLASSIC; **** EXCELLENT; *** GOOD; ** FAIR; * POOR

Anything for Baumbach

Stiller just happy to work with director in *Greenberg*

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News



Ben Stiller had little trouble relating to his character in Greenberg — Noah Baumbach's new film about a misanthropic failed musician adrift in Los Angeles after a nervous breakdown — but he insists that's just because of a monumental birthday.

"I think a lot of people could identify with what he's going through," Stiller explains, tying *Greenberg*'s neuroses to turning 40. "For me it was a big birthday — it's already a while ago. It's a point in your life when you go, 'Wow, I guess I don't have more ahead of me than I have behind me.'"

Heavy stuff for a film that's ostensibly a comedy, but it's the warped world-

view of the character that interested Stiller.

"It's a classic midlife situation, but it can be very hard for somebody who hasn't gotten to a place where they wanted to be," he says. "I think you'd be a little callous or have a pretty big sense of yourself to think that anybody's immune from that."

Midlife crisis talk aside, Stiller was mostly just happy to get a chance with writer-director Baumbach.

"I'm a very big fan of his," he says. "I would've done probably any role he sent me. Movies like that don't come around that often."

Certainly 44-year-old Stiller, with a thriving career as an actor, a writer and a director, doesn't have

to worry about relating to his character's lack of success. Everyone has goals, Stiller says, but it's important to not bog yourself down with them.

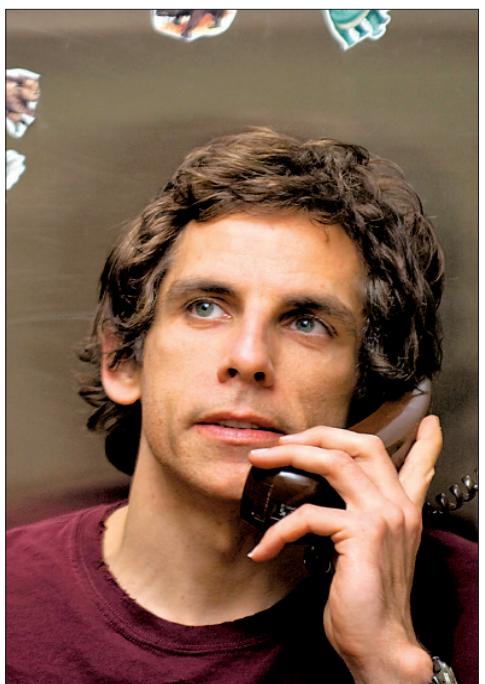
"I don't think you can do that to yourself and be a happy person. I think you just have to have a sense of where you're at," he says. "To me, the biggest thing that I'm trying to get to is just to be OK in the moment, just be OK where I am right now. Because that's the only place that I've ever found true happiness. Anything that's result-oriented never ends up being that fulfilling because it's not in the moment. That's the lesson that I keep on getting taught and trying to learn."

Another way Stiller's

been finding happiness lately is through his charity work, recently becoming one of the most vocal supporters of relief in Haiti.

But with the earthquake that devastated the country fading from public memory, Stiller says he and his organization are working even harder to keep awareness up. "It is hard because it's a long-term rebuilding process, and there's never been anything like this. And I think people, you know, through just natural human inclination, have to detach at a certain point," he says. "Our job is just to keep the attention there. And I think that will be in increments, like in six months saying, 'Hey, we're building this bunch of schools here,' or in a year we're going to do this fundraiser, because it is hard to keep people's attention on it."

**Greenberg
opens next
Friday**



Ben Stiller plays a failed musician in *Greenberg*.

"A SWEEPING ROMANTIC MASTERPIECE."

- Greg Russell, WMYD-TV

"Robert Pattinson and Emilie de Ravin are terrific."

- Steve Oldfield, FOX-TV

"A heartwarming love story."

- Manny De La Rosa, NBC-TV

"So perfectly acted, so brilliantly directed... This movie will become a part of you."

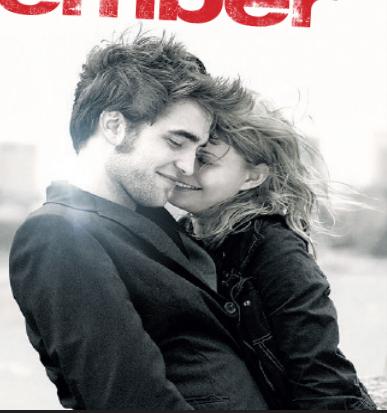
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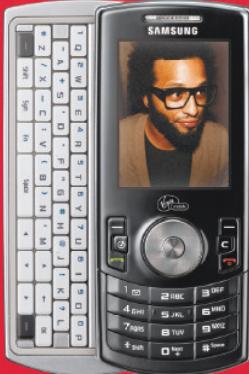
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The new CG/live-action blended Smurfs movie has been gathering up cast members and voices. And now it has a voice for its villain, Gargamel in The Simpsons' Hank Azaria. [EMPIREONLINE.COM](#)

Azaria a Smurfs villain

Movies

MOVIES EDITOR: KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

Satisfying thrill ride

The Ghost Writer

Director: Roman Polanski
Stars: Pierce Brosnan, Ewan McGregor
Classification: STC
Rating: 1/2

NED EHRBAR
 Metro World News

It's difficult to watch Roman Polanski's grippy and enjoyable new thriller, *The Ghost Writer*, without being reminded of current events involving both the director and former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, on whom the film's Adam Lang (Pierce Brosnan) is obviously — if not explicitly — based.

It doesn't help matters that both Polanski and Blair have faced very high-profile legal challenges leading up to the film's release.

But even without the real-world signifiers, the film



Pierce Brosnan, left, and Ewan McGregor square off in Roman Polanski's *The Ghost Writer*.

is a satisfying, stylish ride, showing once again that, legal and personal issues notwithstanding, Polanski is still a great filmmaker.

Of course, much of that is to do with author Robert Harris, who adapted the screenplay from his own novel, and stars Brosnan and Olivia Williams, turning in career-high performance as the embattled former PM and his wife under siege at a pub-

lisher's vacation home in New England while protesters chant outside the gates and charges from the International Criminal Court loom.

Into this mix is thrown Ewan McGregor as an unnamed ghost writer brought in to spruce up Lang's memoirs after the previous ghost writer's apparent suicide. McGregor's character is in over his head from the get-go, pro-

viding the Scottish actor's brow plenty of exercise.

The only real drawbacks to the film are the often garish digital effects — used by necessity since Polanski couldn't actually go on location to the U.S. or England.

It can be distracting when a great performance is given before a clearly green-screened bay window overlooking the Atlantic.

Stella serves up a sensual taste of India

ANNE BRODIE
 for Metro Canada

FEATURE Don McKellar and Lisa Ray star in Dilip Mehta's *Cooking with Stella*, a comic fable set in the split world of New Delhi, India.

Ray plays a newly installed Canadian High Commissioner and McKellar's her stay at home husband; they have a tough time adjusting to the class system in their own home.

They live in the relative luxury of the diplomatic compound staffed by servants who live in the real, down-and-dirty New Delhi, including a cook named Stella who runs a black market business with Canadian supplies.

"It was great to be in India and have a job and a reason to be there," says McKellar. "It's not the easiest city to explore; it's a chaotic city, but it's a sensual city. The cliché about In-

dia is true — it is very sensual with smells and sounds and noise. And touch! People touch you, there is no personal space. It's sort of overwhelming.

His character's relationship with Stella is a complicated one. She doesn't want him breathing down her neck while she bootlegs the Commission's food and supplies. She reluctantly agrees to be his cooking guru and ups her con game.

Filmmaker and photo-journalist Dilip Mehta nursed the idea for a story for years. He wanted to reflect a more realistic contemporary India.

"We have all seen the exotic, erotic and poverty films about India. But there is a 300 million strong middle class. Why aren't we doing stories about that? Because colour and poverty sell. If I said this about *Slumdog Millionaire*, you'd be talking about me in the past tense. I'd be dead."

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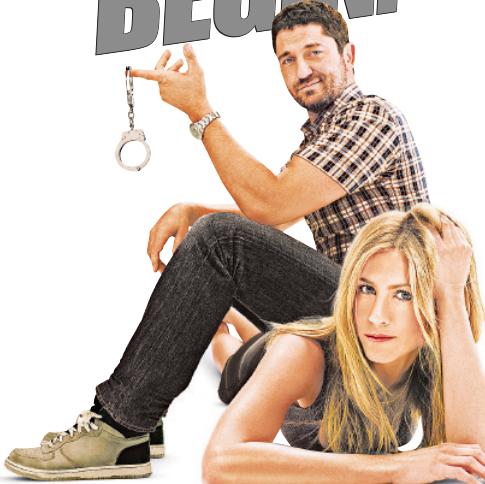
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PG LANGUAGE MAY OFFEND

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Check Theatre Directory or SonyPicturesReleasing.ca for Locations and Showtimes

SONY makes believe

Turkey time for Wilson, Harrelson

Long-time friends Owen Wilson and Woody Harrelson are finally pairing up for a movie. The duo will play animated turkeys, Reggie and Brock, who discover a time machine and travel back to the first Thanksgiving to take themselves off the menu. [EW.COM](#)

MOVIES EDITOR: KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

movies&entertainment 25**Movies**

***** A CLASSIC; **** EXCELLENT; *** GOOD; ** FAIR; * POOR

Atom power transforms Amanda

Seyfried perfect for Chloe, Canadian director says

RICHARD CROUSE
for Metro Canada

In Chloe, the new psychological thriller from Canadian director Atom Egoyan, Amanda Seyfried plays an escort hired by Catherine (Julianne Moore) to test her husband's (Liam Neeson) fidelity.

Following starring roles in *Mean Girls*, *Mama Mia* and the popular HBO show *Big Love*, this is her first real adult part. It's a complicated and showy role for the 25-year-old actress, and she credits Egoyan with pushing her to deepen the character by exploring

every facet of Chloe's life. "It's a broad spectrum of emotions the audience feels about her," she says, "and in order to make the audience feel that way you have to play it right and in order for me to play it right I had to have Atom Egoyan."

"Mr. Egoyan," she continues, "is a genius and he's what good filmmaking is all about. I know it's going to be difficult for me to choose my next project based on what I just went through with him. It has raised the bar into a very high place."

It's obvious that Seyfried admires Egoyan, but it appears to be a mutual appre-

**Chloe
opens next
Friday**

Amanda Seyfried, left, director Atom Egoyan and Julianne Moore on the set of *Chloe*.

ciation society. In a separate interview the director called the actress's audition

"exceptional."

"There were a lot more fa-

considered but she was our gal," he said. "We knew that from the moment we did the

audition. There was just something about her. Fortunately in the intervening period she suddenly became a star with *Mama Mia*.

Her star was on the rise before they made the film, but on the first day Egoyan had a moment of doubt.

"I have this reputation for hiring very young actresses," he says, "and the day she arrived in Toronto I thought, 'My God, she's a child. We've made a mistake.' But we needed the separation in age between Julianne (Moore) and her. That was really very important."

Any doubts were soon quashed when Seyfried went to work, however.

"She's a really good actress. She really grew into the role," he says.

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Top albums on the Billboard 200

1 Battle Of The Sexes, Ludacris; 2. Plastic Beach, Gorillaz; 3. Need You Now, Lady Antebellum; 4. Valleys Of Neptune, Jimi Hendrix; 5. Get Off On The Pain, Gary Allan. METRO NEWS SERVICES



Thrush Hermit is back together for a short tour. The band performs in Halifax tonight.

The return of Thrush Hermit

Seminal '90s indie act reunite for mini-tour

CAM LINDSAY
for Metro Canada



With nostalgia for the '90s in full swing, it makes sense for a band as beloved as Thrush Hermit to reunite. Many felt the seminal East Coast indie band called it quits far too early in the midst of a creative peak in 1999, following the release of their second album, Clayton Park.

The whirlwind reunion mini-tour (shows in Moncton, Halifax, Waterloo, Peterborough, Ottawa, and Toronto) is a "sort of celebratory jaunt" to loosely coincide with the anniversary of their demise, explains vocalist/guitarist Rob Benvie. "The idea had been kicking around in a half-assed kind of way for a while."

"Last summer I spent some time in India and while there suffered a bout of deep nostalgia, part of which involved listening to the old records and thinking wistfully of years past. I hit up the guys on the idea and we all agreed the time was right."

"I think we're pretty aware that this tour is all about fun and celebrating happy memories — for us, as well as those that come out."

Rob Benvie

Their nine sold-out shows confirm that Thrush Hermit fans feel the same. Benvie says they "originally intended on only doing two or three shows. However, once the word got out, offers rolled in and we expanded the project."

The members hitting the stage will be the most familiar lineup: Benvie, Joel Plaskett, Ian McGettigan and Cliff Gibb. Fully aware of the expectations that come with reforming after a decade, Benvie says, "We're a bit older, but not that old. And we've all kept actively rocking in other forums since, so cascading back into the classic Hermit paradigm shouldn't be too tough. We intend on making it just as mighty, if not mightier, than we were in our prime."

In order to do it right, the band will have new merch on hand including

"attractive new shirts" and a seven-disc set compiling their complete discography for sale. Containing six CDs and a DVD with a 1999 doc and unseen footage, Benvie considers it "the ultimate reward for those that still pledge allegiance to the Hermit."

As for what happens after they close their last set at an all-ages gig on March 28 in Toronto, Benvie is unequivocal. As far as anything new, the band has "no desire to get that machinery rolling again. I think we're pretty aware that this tour is all about fun and celebrating happy memories — for us, as well as those that come out."

In Concert

- Thrush Hermit plays the Paragon Theatre tonight.

Singer and guitarist Alex Chilton dies

PEOPLE Singer and guitarist Alex Chilton, known for his influential work with bands the Box Tops and Big Star, died Wednesday. He was 59.

Chilton died at a hospital in New Orleans after experiencing what appeared to be heart problems, said his long-time friend John Fry.

Chilton was the gravel-voiced teenage singer for the pop-soul outfit the Box

Tops, whose 1967 hit The Letter opened with the line "Gimme a ticket for an aeroplane . . ." Their other hits were Soul Deep and Cry Like a Baby.

Chilton

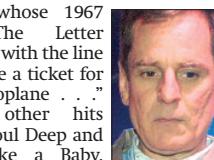
grew up in Memphis, Tenn., and formed the band with friends from school.

"Alex was an amazingly talented person, not just as

a musician and vocalist and a songwriter, but he was intelligent and well-read and interested in a wide number of music genres," said Fry, owner of Ardent Studios.

Chilton's short run with Big Star brought less mainstream success but made him a cult hero to other rock musicians.

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1. Valleys of Neptune, Jim Hendrix; 2. Under Great White Northern Lights, The White Stripes; Recollection, K.D. Lang; 4. Plastic Beach, Gorillaz; 5. Soldier of Love, Sade. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Movies

Lost treasure of rock 'n' roll

The T.A.M.I. Show: Collector's Edition DVD

Distributor: Shout! Factory

Performers: The Rolling Stones, James Brown, The Supremes

Rating:

MICK JAGGER LATER admitted it was one of the worst career decisions he ever made — allowing the Rolling Stones to go on stage after James Brown to close the

T.A.M.I. Show in 1964.

The Stones were still just a bunch of middle class kids from England, performing covers of the R&B greats. They were no match for the Godfather of Soul. At the time, nobody was. He was the real thing. The Stones got owned.

Brown's performance at the Teenage Awards Music International (TAMI) concert at the Santa Monica

Civic Auditorium that day was one of his greatest. Over the years, the TAMI Show film has become sort of a lost treasure of rock 'n' roll history. On Tuesday, however, the complete concert will be available in stores on DVD for the first time, lovingly restored to high definition sound and video and accompanied by a 20 pages of liner notes.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada



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Alan Cross

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smoke. Instead, there's a very buff Slash, replete in his trademark leather top hat and sunglasses, sampling from a tray of fresh fruit and mineral water. It's 11:30 a.m. — early by rock star standards — but he's already been to the gym.

"How you doin', bro?" he asks with a firm handshake and flawless smile. "Please. Have a seat." He takes a spot on a sofa and leans forward, obviously eager to talk about what he's been up to.

I look around the room again. "So it's true. You HAVE quit smoking. No drugs, no drinking and now no smoking? It wasn't the Chilean earthquake that knocked the earth off its axis. I think it's you. You have med-

dled with the primal forces of rock 'n' roll, Mr. Slash."

He smiles sort of sheepishly. "Yeah, it's been 10 month since I've had a cigarette, which is the same amount of time that I quit during Velvet Revolver. So far, it's been good, although something could happen any second."

On April 6, Slash will release his first solo album, a self-titled project featuring an impressive array of guests vocalist that include the usual suspects (Ozzy, Iggy, Lemmy), some unusual choices (Kid Rock, Adam Levine from Maroon 5, Fergie from the Black Eyed Peas) and even a couple of old Gunners (Izzy, Duff). And, of course, Dave Grohl shows up on drums on one song.

"I wrote the music with specific voices in mind. When the music was done, I contacted the people I thought should sing the songs. They wrote the lyrics and the vocal melodies and then we recorded."

He's quick to sing the praises of people like Fergie and Levine. "She's a rock chick at heart and she's better than a lot of dudes out there. Adam came in and did this great falsetto performance in one take. He's amazing."

Slash already has a band together (featuring a couple of Canadians players) and a tour is set to start next month. He's pumped about it.

So no GnR reunion, ever?

"Why?" he says. "What would be the point?"

The Ongoing History Of New Music can be heard on stations across Canada. Read more at ongoinghistory.com and exploremusic.com



Slash's
solo
debut
includes guest
vocals from
Iggy Pop,
Kid Rock
and
Fergie.

Howard Epstein

MLA Halifax Chebucto

CONSTITUENCY OFFICE

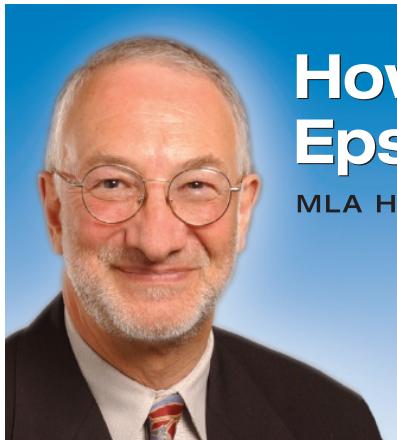
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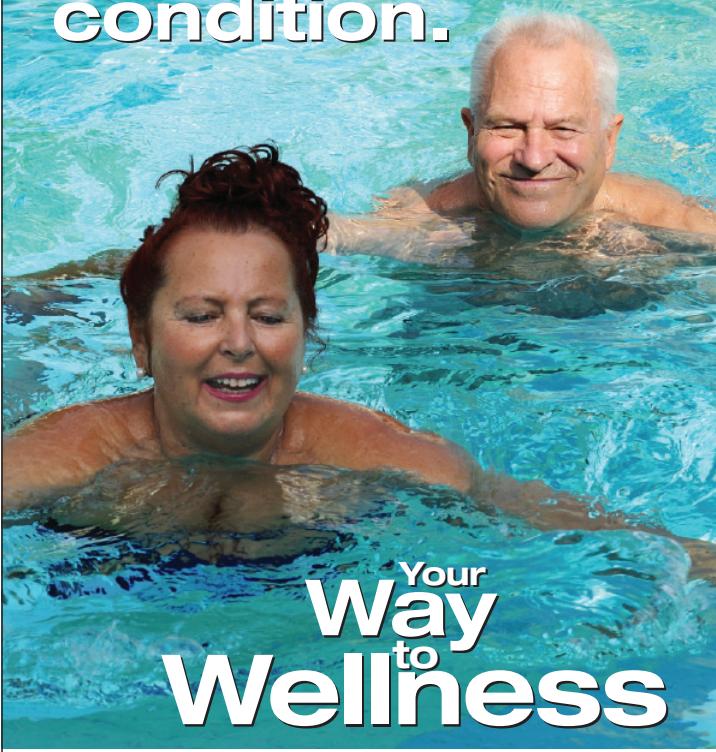
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Television

GETTY IMAGES



James Lipton hosts a new season of *Inside The Actors Studio*.

Actors go inside the studio for a new TV season

IAN JOHNSTON
for Metro Canada

"Lipton claims he works two weeks, 14 hour days, in compiling that notorious stack of 400 question cards he uses during each and every interview."

Sometimes they go four hours and I have to personally shut it down. Otherwise, they'd go all night.

"The record was Barbra Streisand. She went to two-thirty in the morning."

This season's interviews are an eclectic mix that kicks off with director James Cameron (*Avatar*). After that, those subjecting themselves to Lipton's scrutiny include everyone from the band Bon Jovi, to writer/director Judd Apatow (*Superbad*), to the voice cast of TV's *Family Guy*.

Lipton — whose age is listed in various sources as a surprising 83 — prefers to keep his birthday a mystery.

"This business is very ageist," says Lipton, whose six-plus decade resume includes stints as a poet, novelist, Broadway lyricist, soap opera writer, and actor.

"In my early acting days, I used to add years to my age so I'd be considered for leading man parts. Perhaps it's coming back to haunt me."

**Inside The
Actors Studio
returns for its
16th season
on Bravo! on
Sunday.**

James Lipton is legendary for the in-depth research he puts into every interview on *Inside The Actors Studio*.

But to hear him tell it, the secret to the TV show's success is the stuff he can't prepare for.

"We don't do pre-interviews with our guests. So when we meet on stage, it's for the first time. It's like a high wire act without a net," says Lipton, who begins his 16th season of hosting the Bravo series Sunday.

"The interviews are like self-portraits. The questions are meant to provoke an honest response. So I decided early on there would be no pre-interview. It forces us into a conversation."

Still, as conversations

go, Inside The Actors Studio can be pretty intense. Lipton claims he works two weeks, 14 hour days, in compiling that notorious stack of 400 question cards he uses during each and every interview.

"I sleep only a few hours a night, so that helps," says Lipton, who conducts the interviews in front of students from the Actors Studio Drama School in New York.

"But I edit the show as well. You only see a portion of the interview.

In the spotlight

Guest line up

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| • James Cameron (Sunday) | • The cast <i>Family Guy</i> (April 4) |
| • Kate Hudson (Sunday, March 28) | • Amy Poehler (April 11) |
| | • Judd Apatow (April 18) |

Babies! More babies!

Amy Poehler and Will Arnett are expanding their brood. A rep for the Parks and Recreation comedienne confirms that the couple is expecting their second child. No due date has been released. [USMAGAZINE.COM](#)

Sweden's Battle of the Blades wants Sundin

The stage is set for retired Toronto Maple Leafs star Mats Sundin to join Battle of the Blades. Now it's just a matter of convincing the longtime NHLer to take part.

The show's executive producer John Brunton says the massively popular CBC-TV series, which begins shooting a second season in Toronto this summer, is bound for Sweden after inking its first deal to bring the

Canadian format overseas. "There's tons of great superstar hockey players in Sweden, even going back to our Maple Leaf Borje Salming," Brunton says of possible Swedish contestants.

"Would we love to get Mats Sundin involved in our project in Sweden in some capacity, whether it's as a judge, or a skater, or in some way, shape or form? That would be a home run for us."

But it's early going yet. Brunton says the deal with Swedish distributor Sparks Network was finalized last week, and prospects for a Swedish Battle have yet to be determined.

However, he says the Swedish format would follow Canada's lead from last year, when former NHLers including Tie Domi, Claude Lemieux and Bob Probert were turned into unlikely

sequined sensations by pairing them with champion ice dancers in weekly competitions.

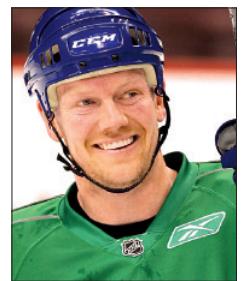
Former Edmonton Oiler Craig Simpson and figure skater Jamie Sale won the inaugural competition, which featured Hockey Night In Canada's Ron MacLean and former skating champ Kurt Browning as hosts.

Swedish defenceman Alex Edler predicted the

show could have legs in hockey-crazy Sweden.

"I think it will be good. There's a lot of those shows ... Dancing with the Stars or whatever it's called," Edler said during a Vancouver Canucks practice.

"I think they'll (Swedish TV audiences) enjoy it if they get some good hockey players on there," Edler said during a Vancouver Canucks practice.



Mats Sundin

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Murdoch Mysteries finds a home in U.K.

TV It seems the Brits are smitten with the Canadian super sleuth in Murdoch Mysteries.

The show airs on UK-TV's Alibi channel and the station's online fan forum is packed with kudos for the Gemini Award-winning detective series that's set in 19th century Toronto.

And star Yannick Bisson says a group of fans followed the cast around when they recently filmed in Bristol, England for the first time.

They were very protective and made sure everyone felt welcome, he said.

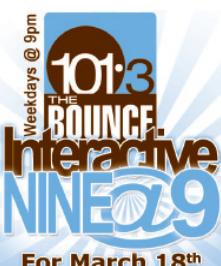
"It was like it was their show and we're their people," Bisson said with a laugh in a recent interview.

"And these people are very picky about their murder mysteries and they're very picky about their Victorian-era shows. And you know, they wrote the style, and for them to like it is a huge honour."

Murdoch Mysteries is based on the novels of Toronto writer Maureen Jennings and airs Sundays on Citytv in Canada. Bisson stars as William Murdoch, a dashing detective who employs forensic techniques that were radical in the late 1800s, like fingerprinting and trace evidence.

Murdoch Mysteries has

THE CANADIAN PRESS

For March 18th

Trey Songz - Say Aah

The Script - Break Even
Down With Webster - Your Man

Hedley - Perfect

Justin Bieber Ft
Ludacris - Baby

Ricky J - Whatta Night

Adam Lambert -
Whataya Want From Me

Timbaland Ft Katy Perry - If We Ever Meet Again

Ke\$ha - Blah Blah Blah

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	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
	31	31	ABC	News Center	World News	Inside Edition	Chronicle	Figure Skating Thin Ice.	20/20 (HDTV) (N)	20/20		
	7	7	ASN	The Road to Avonlea	Degrassi: TNG	TMZ (N)	America's Next Top Model		Look-A-Like	Comedy Now		
	11	11	CBC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Rick Mercer	Marketplace	CBC News: the fifth estate	CBC News: The National (N)	The Hour		
	32	32	CBS	WBZ News (N)	Evening News	College Basketball	NCAA Tournament - Arkansas-Pine Bluff vs. Duke.			College Basketball		
	6	6	CIEH	Entertainment	ET Canada	NUMB3RS	X-Weighted Jade"		Shark Tank	News Final (N)		
	9	9	CJCH	etalk	Access H.	Medium (N)	Law & Order		The Bridge (N)	CTV News		
	36	36	FOX	Seinfeld	The Simpsons	Two/Half Men	House "Remorse"	Kitchen Nightmares (N)		Fox First		
	12	12	NBC	News	NBC News	Access H.	Extra (N)	Who Do You Think You Are?	Dateline NBC (N)			
	55	55	SCOR	Score Today		College Basketball	NCAA Tournament, First Round: Teams TBA.			College Basketball		
	53	53	TSN	Off the Record	SportsCentre	NBA Basketball	Oklahoma City Thunder at Toronto Raptors.			NHL Hockey		
	16	16	A&E	Csi: Miami "Identity"		Criminal Minds (HDTV)	Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Criminal Minds (HDTV)	Criminal		
	70	70	APTN	APTN News	Investigates	Fish Out of Blessings	Cashing In	Rabbit Fall		Wayne's World 2 ** (1993, Comedy)		
	37	37	BRVO	Emily of New Moon	Kyle Riabko: The Lead	Bravo!FACT	Cover Stories	White Collar		Dexter		
	49	49	COM	Just for Laughs	Air Force	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Comedy Now	
	18	18	CNN	(6) The Situation Room With Wolf Blitzer (N)		Campbell Brown (N)	Larry King Live (N)			Cooper 360		
	38	38	DISC	Cash Cab	How It's Made	Daily Planet (N)	Dirty Jobs		Man vs. Wild "China" (N)	Ancient World		
	34	48	HGTV	Extreme Makeover: Home	House	Property	House Hunt.	Green Homes	Location, Location, Location	House		
	46	46	HIST	Jobs in the Danger Zone	Ancients Behaving Badly	Nostradamus Effect			Face/Off *** (1997, Action)			
	17	17	MM	Buffy the Vampire Slayer	Secret Life of American Teen	The Vampire Diaries			Into the Blue ** (2005, Adventure)			
	206	206	206 PIX	(6:50) Four Days (1999, Suspense)		Everybody's Doing It (2002)			Jeepers Creepers *** (2001, Horror)			
	39	39	SHOW	Trailer Park	Trailer Park	Relic Hunter	Beyond Loch Ness (2008, Suspense)	Brian Krause		Pure Pwnage		
	40	40	SLICE	Whatever	Wedding SOS	Rich Bride Poor Bride	Til Debt-Part	Til Debt-Part	Til Debt-Part	Til Debt-Part	Til Debt-Part	
	21	21	21 TLC	Say Yes	Yes	Four Weddings (HDTV)	What Not to Wear		What Not to Wear (N)	Weddings		
	22	22	W	House-Sell	House-Sell	Supernanny	How to Look Good Naked		A Walk to Remember ** (2002, Romance)			
	27	27	YTV	iCarly		iCarly "Quit iCarly"	iCarly		Things I Hate	That's-Weird	Prank Patrol	
	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
	31	31	ABC	News Center	World News	Cosby Show	Cosby Show	FlashForward	Mark must meet with a therapist.			
	7	7	ASN	The Road to Avonlea	W-FIVE-In the Cards		FlashForward	Mark must meet with a therapist.		Castle		
	11	11	CBC	National Hockey Night	NHL Hockey	Montreal Canadiens at Toronto Maple Leafs. (HDTV) (Live)				Atlantis		
	32	32	CBS	College Basketball			College Basketball			NHL Hockey		
	6	6	CIEH	16:9-Picture	renegade	Ice Blues (2008, Mystery)	Chad Allen.			48 Hours.		
	9	9	CJCH	W5 (DVS)		Spectacle: Elvis	Flashpoint (DVS)			Love-Death	G-Spot	
	36	36	FOX	Friends	Friends	Seinfeld	Cops (N)	Cops		Law & Order (HDTV)	CTV News	
	12	12	NBC	News	NBC News	Access Hollywood (N)	Parenthood (HDTV)			America's Most Wanted	Fox First	
	55	55	SCOR	College Basketball		College Basketball	NCAA Tournament, Second Round: Teams TBA.			Law & Order (HDTV)	Law & Order	
	53	53	TSN	SportsCentre		ATP Tennis BNP Paribas Open: Men's Semifinals.				Curling		
	16	16	A&E	Miami (HDTV)		CSI: Miami (HDTV)	CSI: Miami (HDTV)			CSI: Miami (HDTV)	CSI: Miami	
	70	70	APTN	Flame	The Mix (N)	MTV	Rez Tunez	Blackfly		Sweet November * (2001, Romance)		
	37	37	BRVO	Arts & Minds	Bravo!Videos	Battle of Wills (DVS)	Star Portraits	Books-Film		About a Boy (2002, Comedy-Drama)		
	49	49	COM	Comedy Now	Comedy Now	Corner Gas	Corner Gas	Hiccups	Dan for Mayor	The Simpsons	Jim Breuer	
	18	18	CNN	Situation Room-Wolf Blitzer		Newscast	Campbell Brown			Larry King Live	Newsroom	
	38	38	DISC	Cash Cab	How It's Made	Cash Cab (N)	Cash Cab	Destroyed	Destroyed	Dirty Jobs	Vermintors	
	34	48	HGTV	Holmes on Homes		Flipping Out	Property	For Rent	Outdoor Room	Price	Makover	
	46	46	HIST	Ancients Behaving Badly	Nostradamus Effect				Cities of the Underworld	Kingdom of Heaven *** (2005)		
	17	17	MM	The Vampire Diaries		Into the Blue ** (2005, Adventure)	Paul Walker.			Springbreak.10	Muchmusic	
	206	206	206 PIX	Seven Years in Tibet		(7:50) Interview With the Vampire (1994, Horror)				Seven *** (1995, Suspense)		
	39	39	SHOW	(5) The Matrix Revolutions		Slings and Arrows				Nightmare at the End of the Hall (2008, Drama)	Aliens vs Project Runway	
	40	40	SLICE	Til Debt-Part	Til Debt-Part	Real Housewives of NYC	Real Housewives of Atlanta			Real Housewives, Orange	Project Runway	
	21	21	21 TLC	Cake Boss	Cake Boss	Cake Boss	Cake Boss	Cake Boss	Cake Boss	Cake Boss	Cake Boss	
	22	22	W	Legally Blonde (2001)		Mean Girls *** (2004, Comedy)	Lindsay Lohan, Tina Fey.			The Devil Wears Prada (2006, Comedy)		
	27	27	YTV	Kid vs. Kat	League-Evil	Zeke's Pad	Prank Patrol			That's-Weird	Prank Patrol	Survive This
	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
	31	31	ABC	News Center	World News	Figure Skating Thin Ice.	Extreme Makeover: Home			Desperate Housewives	Jamie Oliver	
	7	7	ASN	The Road to Avonlea	TMZ (N)	Gossip Girl (HDTV) (N)	Undercover Boss (N)			Law & Order		
	11	11	CBC	Heartland (N) (DVS)	Facing Ali (2009, Documentary)	George Chuvalo.	CBC News: The National			Doc Zone		
	32	32	CBS	College Basketball	60 Minutes (HDTV) (N)	The Amazing Race 16	Undercover Boss (N)			Cold Case (N)		
	6	6	CIEH	Global Nat	16:9-Picture	Cleveland	King of Hill	The Simpsons		The Celebrity Apprentice (HDTV) (N)	Paralympics	
	9	9	CJCH	Human Target (N)	To Be Announced	The Simpsons	Family Guy			Desperate Housewives		
	36	36	FOX	Cold Case "Yo, Adrian"	'Til Death	'Til Death (N)	The Simpsons	Cleveland		Family Guy	Tucson	Fox First
	12	12	NBC	News	Dateline NBC (N)	Minute to Win It (N)	Comedy Now	Family Guy		The Celebrity Apprentice (HDTV) (N)		
	55	55	SCOR	College Basketball	March Madness 2010	The WWE Experience				WWE Vintage Collection	Poker: Million	
	53	53	TSN	Curling	SportsCentre	Boxing Deandre Latimore vs. Sechew Powell. (HDTV)				Curling		
	16	16	A&E	G. Simmons	Simmons	G. Simmons	G. Simmons	G. Simmons		G. Simmons Family Jewels	Kirstie Alley	
	70	70	APTN	InFocus	One Dead Indian (2006, Docudrama)					Commando ** (1985, Action)	Dan Hedaya	
	37	37	BRVO	Battle of Will (DVS)	Arts & Minds	Bravo!FACT	Spectacle: Elvis			Serendipity (2001, Romance-Comedy)		
	49	49	COM	Laughs	Laughs	Hiccups	Dan for Mayor	Comedy Now		South Park	Ugly	Tosh.0
	18	18	CNN	Newsroom		Newsroom	State of the Union			Larry King Live	Newsroom	
	38	38	DISC	Cash Cab	How It's Made	MythBusters				Life Animals and plants. (N)	Life Reptiles and amphibians.	MythBusters
	34	48	HGTV	Dirty Business	Dirty Business	Dirty Business	Dirty Business	Dirty Business		Holmes Inspection	House-Bryan	
	46	46	HIST	Ice Pilots NWT (HDTV)		After Armageddon	Survived disasters of the past.			Mad Max 2: The Road Warrior (1981)		
	17	17	MM	Secret Life of American Teen	America's Best Dance Crew	So You Think You Can Dance				So You Think You Can Dance		
	206	206	206 PIX	(4:45) Fiddler on the Roof		Under Suspicion ** (2000, Suspense)	Thomas Jane			Bird on a Wire ** (1990) Mel Gibson		
	39	39	SHOW	50 First Dates	Kink in Hair	Crash & Burn (HDTV)	Premonition (2004, Suspense)	Casper Van Dien.		Damages (N)		
	40	40	SLICE	Buy Me	Buy Me	The Big Flip	Marriage	X-Weighted "Piper"		In Laws	In Laws	Matchmaker
	21	21	21 TLC	I'm Pregnant	I'm Pregnant	Hoarding: Alive						House-Buried
	22	22	W	Devil-Prada	Hwd 10 Best	Supernanny	Come Dine With Me					Murder in the Hamptons (2005, Docudrama)
	27	27	YTV	Ice Age *** (2002, Comedy)	John Leguizamo	To Be Indie	Family Blz	Fries That?		Fries That?	Fries That?	Survive This

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Weekend, March 19-21, 2010

32 movies&entertainment

Going Out

Leaders of the pack

Cameron Bright intimidates as New Moon's vampiric Alec

CHRIS ALEXANDER
for Metro Canada



Amidst its gooey layers of romantic delirium, last year's box office igniting Twilight sequel New Moon (arriving on DVD and Blu-ray this Saturday) had a few welcome additions to its vampire riddled mythology.

One was the introduction of a pack of testosterone powered werewolves; the other — more effective — bonus was the appearance of the dreaded Volturi, a black cloaked sect of ruthless, red-eyed aristocratic bloodsuckers led by Oscar-nominated actor Michael Sheen (Underworld, Frost/Nixon).

Hidden among the Volturi's pasty faced ranks was actor Cameron Bright. If the name doesn't immediately jump out at you, the face just might. Bright, now 17, is the former child star of such thrillers as the 2004



Actors Jaime Campbell Bower (left) and Cameron Bright are part of a gang of bloodsuckers in New Moon.

sci-fi shocker Godsend, the eerie Nicole Kidman melo-drama Birth and the over the top 2006 film Running Scared. In New Moon, he plays Alec, a powerful vampire who — like his intimidating brethren — is neither good nor evil.

"I see the Volturi as the government," says Bright.

"They're the leaders of the vampire nation, the ones who enforce the laws. And if you're a leader you have to make difficult decisions, some-

Twilight:
New Moon
is available
on DVD
Saturday

times, and you have to be strong... and feared."

And fear is what the Volturi trade in. Bright's Alec is at first glance, an almost cherubic figure, but one who wields the lethal ability to completely shut off his victims' senses, rendering them virtual vegetables. It's just another novel re-imagining of an iconic monster — the vampire — that has caused both the Twilight books and the films to be controversial amongst purists.

"I think our vampires are really interesting," says the actor.

"We have a side history, something unique. Sometimes I hear people criticizing the way the vampires are presented in the film, the fact that we glitter and turn into diamonds but, here's the thing: vampires don't exist! We can portray them anyway we want to."

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McQueen honour

Alexander McQueen will posthumously receive a Council of Fashion Designers of America Board of Directors Special Tribute award. The British designer will be given the honour at the board's annual awards. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

**Going Out**

Usher has long-term plans for Bieber

Millions of Justin Bieber's teenaged admirers would claim to be the 16-year-old's biggest fan.

But they might have some competition from R&B star Usher.

As Bieber prepares to drop his debut album, the 16-year-old's high-profile mentor is already looking a dozen years into the future.

Usher — who was instru-

mental in discovering the Canadian and igniting his fledgling career — has always had lofty expectations for the mop-topped youngster.

And following Bieber's shockingly quick ascent to the top of the international pop heap, Usher's confidence in the teen-popper has only grown.

"I'm thinking of the

know when he's 12 years into his career, not just in the moment now," Usher told The Canadian Press in a telephone interview yesterday from his Atlanta home.

"Great artists mature with

time. ... To see him now at this age, and think about where he's going to be when he begins to bring real music full circle, when he begins to dictate the sound of the future — I'm looking forward to those days.

"When I first saw him, I thought

about that — I didn't think about how cute he was, or how personable he was, and how much swag he had."

And of course, since that first meeting, everything has changed for Bieber.

It was back in 2007 when Bieber's mother took to YouTube to upload a collection of clips of the then-13-year-old singing R&B covers.

Those videos — in which Bieber sang tunes by Ne-Yo, Justin Timberlake and, yes, Usher — caught the attention of Scooter Braun, a music manager who promptly whisked Bieber off to Atlanta to meet with Usher.

"When I met him, I immediately knew that this kid was poised to be a star," recalled Usher.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Metro's 7th Heaven: Metro taps what's hot right now

1 Kat Von D for Sephora eye colour palette

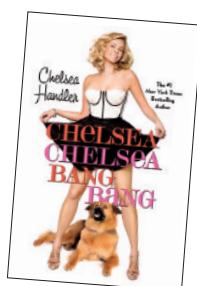
BEAUTY Created by Kat Von D, tattoo artist, reality-TV star, and owner of High Voltage Tattoo, this electric eye colour collection exemplifies the L.A. vibe. Kat is a genius with the gun but she's also a master of makeup. Grab this palette at Sephora and unleash your inner artist.

**2 Justin Bieber**

ARTIST The Canadian teen singer is all the rage. He is officially the most tweeted topic in social media circles. And Bieber-mania may reach new heights once his new album My World 2.0 releases next week. Consider yourself warned.

3 Chelsea Chelsea Bang Bang

BOOKS Fans of late-night TV host Chelsea Handler will want to check out her latest tome, a no-holds barred account of the ridiculousness of life — all handled with a dose of biting wit.

**4 Jessica Simpson's The Price of Beauty**

TV The singer and former Newlyweds reality-TV star made her return to the small screen with her new series. This time Simpson travels the globe with two friends to examine people's efforts to measure up to their society's standard of beauty.

5 Tiger Woods

CELEBRITY Not only was the golfer finally photographed with his wife for the first time since his sex scandal broke last November, but he also announced he'll return to golf course for the Masters in April. Hopefully his performance on the green is better than his televised apology.



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**6 The Twilight Saga: New Moon**

DVD Nothing says puppy love more than bared fangs. In Twilight's second coming, Forks, Wash. teen Bella Swan (Kristen Stewart) finds herself caught in a love triangle with vampire Edward Cullen (Robert Pattinson) and werewolf Jacob Black (Taylor Lautner). If the film is not enough, two-disc DVD edition gives you plenty of behind-the-scenes fodder to swoon over.

7 The Runaways

FILM Wanna know how women rock out? Then check out this in-your-face biopic about the '70s all-girl band that broke the rules and spawned hits like Cherry Bomb. Hamilton native and director Floria Sigismondi keeps it raw and real and stars Kristen Stewart and Dakota Fanning shine as original riot girls Joan Jett and Cherie Currie. In limited release but expanding next month.

Mix of Six**Rabbit Hole**

When: until March 28
Where: Neptune Theatre

This Pulitzer Prize winning play by David Lindsay-Abaire tells the story of a family dealing with the tragic loss of their four-year-old son. While some dramatic moments, the play has plenty of comedic bits too. For tickets, visit neptunetheatre.com.

Premier League Basketball

When: Sunday, 2 p.m.
Where: Halifax Metro Centre

The Halifax Rainmen are in a losing funk and will try to snap out of it against the league-leading Puerto Rico. Fans are asked to wear blue to support the Rainmen. Adult tickets are \$24.50 and \$19.50.

Michael Bolton

When: Friday, 7:30 p.m.
Where: Halifax Metro Centre

One of music's top male singers is coming to town to play hits from a lengthy and successful career, which includes 53 million records sold and multiple Grammy awards. Tickets are \$87.50, \$72.50 and \$52.50.

Henry Rollins: The Frequent Flyer Tour

When: Friday, 8 p.m.
Where: Rebecca Cohn Auditorium

He may have slowed down his music career, but his duties as a spoken word performer haven't abated. The former Black Flag singer has released countless spoken word albums and toured relentlessly. Tickets are \$31.50. To purchase tickets, visit dal.ca/artscentre.

The B-52s

When: Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m.
Where: The Schooner Room, Casino Nova Scotia

It has been said that the B-52s are as quintessentially American as the Beach Boys. And twenty-five years and over twenty million albums into their career, the B-52s remain among the most beloved rock stars ever. Tickets are \$70. Available at the Ticket Atlantic Box Office and at all participating Atlantic Superstores and online at ticketatlantic.com.

Atlantic Outdoor Sports & RV Show

When: Friday through Sunday
Where: Exhibition Park

This 27th annual event will have the entire outdoor sports and RV world under one roof. If it has anything to do with the great outdoors, they will have it. For complete information, visit sportsandrvshow.com.



Heidi Montag has fired Aiden Chase, a Malibu-based psychic whom she hired last week to replace husband Spencer Pratt as her manager, usmagazine.com has learned. [USMAGAZINE.COM](#)

Montag fires new manager

Entertainment

Countdown on for 22 Minutes?

After ratings trouble, sketch comedy show 'on the bubble'

Is the clock ticking on 22 Minutes?

The CBC sketch comedy series concludes its 17th season Tuesday night at 8:30 p.m. on CBC.

A dip in the ratings earlier this season had what used to be called This Hour Has 22 Minutes in "on the bubble" territory for renewal. The season before had been a strong ratings winner, thanks in no small part to all the comedy opportunities presented by the U.S. and Canadian elections.

22 Minutes' team

- Mark Farrell leads a team of six full-time writers into each week's broadcast.
- They sift through 70 to 80 jokes before selecting the funniest dozen or so to include in the show.
- Recent sketches — including

Some key defections at the start of this season — especially executive producer and show runner Mark Farrell, who left to launch his own series,

Mark Critch taking dead aim at Jay Leno, Gavin Crawford as afro-haired artist Rob Boberston, and Geri Hall as hysterical cabinet minister Helena Guergis — have re-energized the end-of-season shows.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CTV's Dan For Mayor — contributed to a slow start for the sketch comedy series. Moving the studio-audience taping to a Friday night — four nights re-

moved from the air date — also hurt the show's reaction time, making it tougher to compete against the instant edge of shows like The Daily Show.

With Farrell back in charge the last few weeks (after wrapping production on Dan For Mayor), focus and ratings have improved. Two Tuesdays ago, the series hit 750,000 viewers nationally according to BBM Canada estimates, placing it well within the top half of all CBC shows.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



After a difficult season, the long running sketch comedy series 22 minutes has been placed on death watch. It will conclude its 17th season on Tuesday night.

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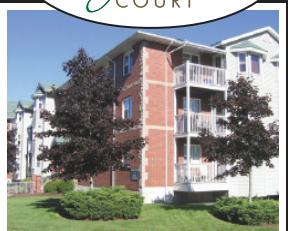
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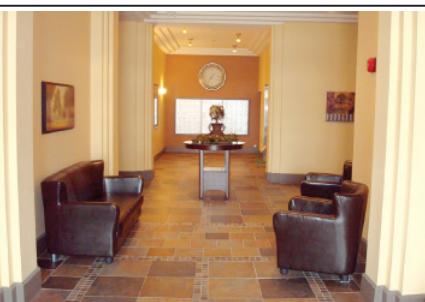
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Modern Family's Ty Burrell adopts

He may play a hapless father of three on the hit show Modern Family, but Ty Burrell had little real-life parenting experience to draw on — until now. The actor and wife Holly have adopted a baby girl. **PEOPLE.COM**

Future of MGM Inc. is up in the air

In Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Inc.'s newest movie, Hot Tub Time Machine, a main character looks around a leg-warmer-dotted ski slope and asks "Is there some kind of retro thing going on this weekend?"

There certainly is at the studio. MGM is dialing back to its past as it prepares to be sold yet again and is stressing the value of its film archive as a major asset.

Six companies made non-binding bids in January for MGM, which owns the

rights to 4,100 movies and TV shows and has a stake in future James Bond and The Hobbit films. Now MGM is preparing to receive binding acquisition offers Friday.

It is unclear how many suitors are still in the running, but Time Warner Inc., Canadian-American Lions Gate Entertainment Corp. and billionaire Len Blavatnik's Access Industries are expected to make bids.

None are expected to be more than \$2 billion US. That would be bitter for

"We're not giant fans of betting the ranch on anything. We are not known to pay retail."

Lion's Gate's Michael Burns on the chance the company will buy MGM Inc.

about 140 lenders that financed the purchase of MGM for \$5 billion in 2005 and now essentially control the company. Equity holders in MGM, such as Sony Corp. and Comcast Corp., have already written off their investments.

If the bids are too low, then the lenders could con-

sider the process a "busted auction" and try to get a better return from sending MGM to bankruptcy court.

Spokesmen for Time Warner and Access Industries declined to comment. Michael Burns, Lions Gate's vice chairman, said in an interview last week that his niche movie studio was in-

terested in MGM, but not at any price.

"We're not giant fans of betting the ranch on anything," he said. "We are not known to pay retail."

MGM, known for its roaring lion and classics such as The Wizard of Oz, has been sold several times since its founding in 1924. The latest sale came at the height of a Hollywood bubble, when Sony, Comcast and several private equity firms took on \$3.7 billion in debt and a \$250 million credit line with JPMorgan Chase & Co.

to take MGM from a group that included billionaire Kirk Kerkorian.

The buyers believed that MGM's library of movies and TV shows would throw off enough cash to help pay down debts. Future projects looked promising, including sequels to the James Bond and the Pink Panther franchises.

But with the decline of the DVD market, and a lack of regular hits, MGM's library is worth far less now, and cash flow has been inadequate. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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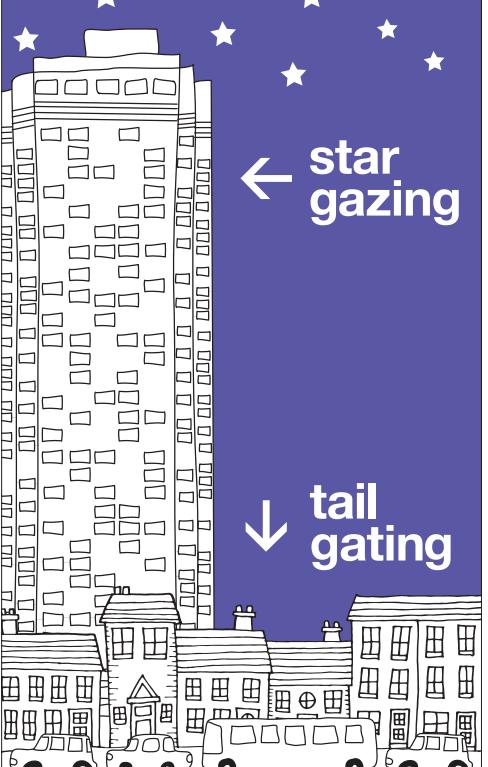
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NBC is rehiring the original Apprentice, the network announced Wednesday. The non-celebrity version of the reality show from executive producers Mark Burnett and Donald Trump will return for a sixth season with a revised format. [TVGUIDE.COM](#)

Entertainment

Bad boys return to small screen



Bryan Cranston, left, and Aaron Paul star in *Breaking Bad*.

It all began when Walter White, a nebbishy high school chemistry teacher in Albuquerque, N.M., learned he had terminal cancer, then hit on a way to make money to leave his family when he was gone: Cook and sell crystal methamphetamine.

That was the stepping-off point for *Breaking Bad*, one of TV's most unlikely masterpieces, which kicks off its third season Sunday on AMC (10 p.m. EDT).

The Peabody Award-winning series stars Bryan Cranston as Walt, whose medical condition seems stabilized. He has stashed away bundles of cash from his crystal meth sales. But he has also rocked his family with his behaviour and put himself in the cross hairs of a drug cartel that wants him dead.

Meanwhile, Jesse Pinkman, his troublesome partner, is grieving. A former washout from Walt's chemistry class who helped him gain entry to

"This is such a show about change. The characters start one way and morph into something completely different."

Aaron Paul

the world of pushing drugs (while using them himself), Jesse is in rehab now. He is mourning the death of Jane, his first true love, from the heroin overdose he blames himself for.

He is also mourning his imagined role in a midair collision of two jetliners over Albuquerque at the end of last season.

Jesse starts the new season with a claim that he's "done using," and, by all indications, he's done partnering with Walt. But there's more to be done.

"This is such a show about change," says Aaron Paul, who plays Jesse. "The characters start one way and morph into something completely different."

As evidence, you need only contrast Jesse's junkie stage with now.

Now Jesse is clean, in despair and at loose ends.

How long can he fight the temptation of renewed self-destruction?

And can Walt convince himself that he has the money he needs for his family and can walk away from the business?

No point trying to predict. *Breaking Bad* remains shocking, tragic and altogether unpredictable from the first images of the season opener.

It's also bitterly funny.

"You laugh at things you absolutely shouldn't be laughing at," notes Paul.

The part seems to fit Paul like a glove — at least, until you catch him on *Big Love*, the HBO drama series about a polygamous family where he plays the straight-arrow newlywed

of Amanda Seyfried's character. He is almost unrecognizable from one show to the other.

The 30-year-old actor grew up in Boise, Idaho, the son of a Baptist minister. Experience in school plays hooked him on acting. He set off at 17 for Hollywood with his parents' blessing.

"Typical story," he says. "Pack the car full of stuff, but anytime it rained, my trunk would fill up with water. And the 3rd and 5th gears wouldn't work."

He landed guest roles on TV series. In features, he played Jeff Bridges' estranged son in *K-PAX* and Tom Cruise's brother-in-law in *Mission Impossible III*. Then, after *Big Love*, came *Breaking Bad*.

He remembers first reading the pilot script, which he sized up as brilliant while concluding it was so bizarre and groundbreaking, "there is no way this is going to be picked up. But I decided to just go for it anyway." **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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Baked Crab Rangoon



PREP TIME: 20 MIN. ► TOTAL TIME: 40 MIN.

► MAKES: 12 SERVINGS 1 WON TON (36 G) EACH

What You Need

1 can (170 g) chunk crabmeat, drained, flaked

125 g (1/2 of 250-g pkg.) *Philadelphia* Light Brick Cream Cheese Spread, softened

2 green onions, thinly sliced

1/4 cup *Miracle Whip* Calorie-Wise Dressing
12 won ton wrappers

Make it

HEAT oven to 350°F.

MIX first 4 ingredients.
LINE each of 12 muffin cups

sprayed with cooking spray with 1 won ton wrapper, allowing edges of wrappers to extend over tops.

FILL with crab mixture.

BAKE 18 to 20 min. or until edges are golden brown and filling is heated through. Serve warm.

Nutrition Information

Per Serving: 70 calories, 3.0 g total fat, 1.5g saturated fat, 15mg cholesterol, 220mg sodium, 6g carbohydrate, 0g dietary fibre, 1g sugars, 3g protein, 4%DV vitamin A, 0%DV vitamin C, 2%DV calcium, 4%DV iron. Exchange: 1/2 Carbohydrates, 1/2 Meat & Alternatives

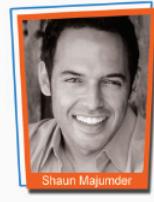


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Saturday
Sunny
11° / 3°

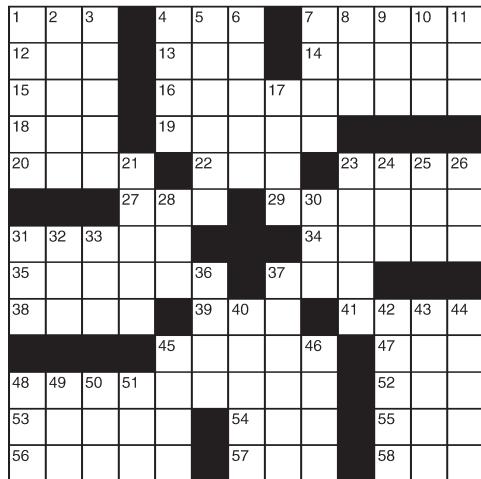
Saturday
Mainly sunny
12° / 2°

Sunday
Variable
13° / 6°

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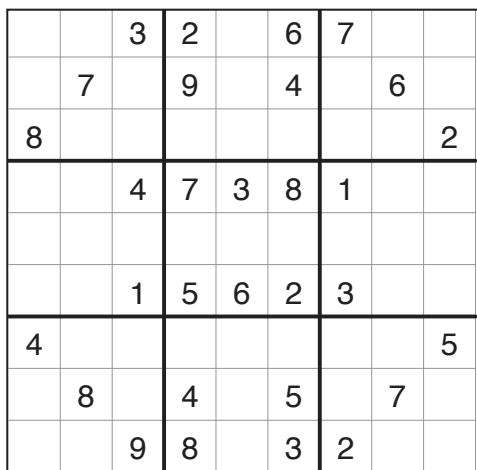
Take Five



Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.



Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

ARIES

MARCH 21-APRIL 20



You feel you must do something to get your life moving again but you have no idea what it might be — a most frustrating state of affairs.

TAURUS

APRIL 21-MAY 21



Don't waste time agonizing about what you are doing and whether it is right or wrong. Everything is the right thing, so why worry?

LIBRA

SEPT 23-OCT 23



If you are tense today it may be because you are worried about a financial matter. The problem may be minor but your mind has made it appear huge.

SCORPIO

OCT 24-NOV 22



Do you go with the flow or do you try to impose your will on a situation that others have found difficult?

GEMINI

MAY 22-JUNE 21



If you go too far in one direction you will find that something pulls you back in the opposite direction and it may not be a pleasant experience.

SAGITTARIUS

NOV 23-DEC 21



You don't have to be sociable. You don't have to be the life and soul of the party. If you want to be alone with your thoughts today do it.

CANCER

JUNE 22-JULY 22



Look on the bright side and bright things will happen. Your mind is a powerful tool and should be treated with respect and used with caution.

CAPRICORN

DEC 22-JAN 20



It's not true that all Capricorns think that money and status are the most important things in this world, and even if you are one of those,

LEO JULY 23-AUG 23

Is your conscience bothering you? Even if it is, there is no reason to believe you are about to be punished for what it was that you did.

AQUARIUS

JAN 21-FEB 18

VIRGO

AUG 24-SEPT 22



You may not entirely trust a certain person but you have made a promise to support them and they are relying on you, so don't let them down.

PISCES

FEB 19-MARCH 20



Because you are not sure what you want it might be best not to make any decisions, no matter how much others urge you to get your act together.

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Metro Recipe of the Day



Roast Vegetable and Bean Stew

INGREDIENTS:

1 small acorn squash
1 lb new potatoes,
scrubbed and cut into 1
1/2-in. chunks
2 carrots, cut into 1 1/2-in.
chunks
2 parsnips, cut into 1 1/2-in.
chunks
2 large zucchini, cut into 1
1/2-in. chunks
2 tsp olive oil
1 garlic clove, finely
chopped
4 large sprigs of fresh rosemary,
plus extra to
garnish
2 cans (540 ml) pinto
beans, drained and rinsed
1 cup apple cider
1 cup hot vegetable broth
Salt and pepper

parsnips and zucchini.
Drizzle olive oil over vegetables and toss to coat.
Stir in garlic, and season lightly with salt and pepper.

3. Lay rosemary sprigs on bottom of large roasting pan and spread vegetables on top in single layer.
Roast until lightly browned, about 30 minutes, turning once.
4. Remove from oven and stir in pinto beans, cider and broth. Cover pan tightly with foil, then return to oven and cook until vegetables are tender, 20 to 25 minutes. Before serving, remove rosemary stalks and garnish with fresh rosemary sprigs.

SERVES 6

METHOD:

- Preheat oven to 400°F (200°C). Halve squash and remove seeds, then peel skin and cut flesh into 1 1/2-in. chunks.
- Put squash in bowl and add potatoes, carrots,

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!



For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

This day in history

1885: Louis Riel declared a provisional government in Saskatchewan, beginning the North-West Rebellion.
1915: Pluto is photographed for the first time but is not recognized as a planet.
1916: Eight American planes take off in pursuit of Pancho Villa, the first United States air-combat mission in history.
1966: Texas Western becomes the first college basketball team to win the Final Four with an all-black starting lineup.
2004: 3-19 Shooting Incident: Taiwanese president Chen Shui-bian is shot just before the country's presidential election on March 20.



And a Happy St. Pat's Day to you too

Jennifer Love Hewitt seems fine despite recently splitting from boyfriend of a year Jamie Kennedy — and it's a good thing, too, given that the comedian was very publicly getting his game on with a hot blond on St. Patrick's Day! HOLLYWOODLIFE.COM

Celebrity Buzz

Sometimes you just know

ADMIT IT, THEY'RE KINDA SWEET Demi Moore knew her romance with Ashton Kutcher had "potential to be special right away," femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The actress — who met the star in 2003 and married him two years later — felt as if she had known the actor for years straight away and admits she will never forget their first meeting.

Moore — who at 47 is 15 years

older than Ashton — said, "It was an effective evening. It was a life-changing evening."

"I knew it had the potential to be something special right away. It was like meeting somebody that I've just known where you just recognize one another."

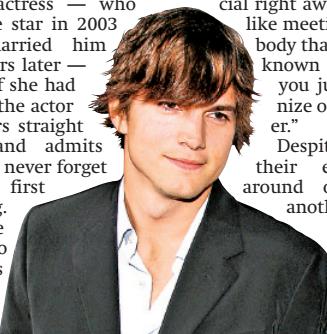
Despite their ease around one another

er, Moore admits the couple initially struggled to express their feelings for one another because their emotions were so strong.

The star — who has three daughters with her ex-husband Bruce Willis — told Harper's Bazaar magazine, "It was so disproportionate, the level of emotion we were experiencing to the time we had spent together. But when you don't know someone, you can't just jump and say,

'I love you.' Nice to meet you, I love you!"

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Back and forth, and back and forth, and back ...

LIKE A TRAPEZE ARTIST AT A CIRCUS Despite E! News' report that Britney Spears and boyfriend Jason Trawick have broken up, multiple insiders tell usmagazine.com that it's more complicated than that.

Over the weekend, the couple was spotted at L.A.'s Mondrian Hotel, and also spent time together at Spears' home, according to a source, us-

magazine.com reports.

"They are on-and-off," another pal of Spears, 28, and her Hollywood agent Trawick, 37, tells Us.

A rep for the singer had no comment on the latest breakup rumour.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Putting away the girly frills

AND PUTTING ON HER BIG GIRL CLOTHES

Miley Cyrus feels "claustrophobic" wearing frills, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The singer-and-actress says she'll be glad when filming on the final series of Hannah Montana — the TV show she shot to fame on — is over because she will no longer have to be dressed up in pink and glitter.

"When they're putting me in sparkles and in pink this final season, I have

to grit my teeth. I can't breathe looking like that anymore," she says.

"A friend came by the set one day and said, 'You don't look very happy.' I said, 'I'm feeling claustrophobic in all these frills.'

Cyrus, 17, has adopted a new mature look of late and looked stunning in her Jenny Packham dress at the Oscars earlier this month. The British designer — famed

for her wedding dresses — made a bespoke champagne-coloured gown for Cyrus to wear at the prestigious ceremony and was thrilled to see her in it.

"She fell in love with a white dress from our spring/summer collection," says the designer.

"She loves the softer Champagne colours so I created something especially for her. She is young, beautiful and talented and I was honoured to be asked to create her special dress for the biggest fashion event of the year."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Had 'thousands of pills' from different doctors

SHOULDN'T THEY ARREST THEM TOO?

A person thought to be part of the drug ring linked to recently deceased actor Corey Haim has been apprehended, popeater.com reports.

"We have confirmed one arrest in the case, but are not releasing any other details," California Attorney General spokeswoman

Christine Gasparac told people.com.

The investigation began long before Haim's death, Gasparac added.

It is not apparent if the suspect in custody gave Haim the drugs thatulti-

mately led to the former teen heartthrob's death.

According to the Attorney General of California, the Lost Boys star procured "thousands of pills" from several doctors dating back to 2009.

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Taking some time off ... finally

Marie Osmond returned to the stage in Las Vegas with brother Donny just 11 days after the tragic death of her son, Michael Bryan, but the star is finally taking some extra time off to mourn her loss, people.com reports. METRO NEWS SERVICES


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Celebrity Buzz

Organic Liaisons of the Third Kind

WELL, SCIENTOLOGISTS DO SEEM TO HAVE A WEIRD OBSESSION WITH FOOD ... JUST SAYING Kirstie Alley is striking back after she says she was blindsided on The Today Show this week with a question about whether her new weight-loss program is connected to Scientology, people.com reports.

"That I would need to clarify or defend the intentions or affiliations of my LLC business corporation in the year 2010 is indicative of the intolerances that we as a

country still need to overcome," Alley, 59, said Wednesday after a private screening of her new A&E reality show Kirstie Alley's Big Life.

"However, after The Today Show brought fringe bigotry and intolerance into the forefront of the national media I feel compelled to clarify (myself)."

The actress, who has been involved in Scientology for the past 30 years, says the suggestion that the diet program, Organic Liaison, is a front for Scientology is "not true."

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Madonna and child

SHE'S RICH, SHE'S POWERFUL, SHE'S GOT THE BODY OF A 24-YEAR-OLD. WOULDN'T YOU WANT TO PLAY TOO? It looks like Madonna may have another young male model taking up her time.

The singer was spotted at a private party at a photo gallery in L.A. with model Adam Senn, according to In Touch — and Jesus Luz was nowhere in sight.

"She arrived with Adam from the back and sat in the VIP area," a source says.



METRO WORLD NEWS

Karl says the darndest things

HII! I'M FROM THE 'OTHER WORLD' WHERE ALL I GET IS A BEAT UP PLAYBOY FOUND IN A COLLAPSING TOOL SHED. OH THE SHAME! Fashion mogul Karl Lagerfeld insists he prefers paying for sex.

"I personally only like high-class escorts," he tells Vice magazine.

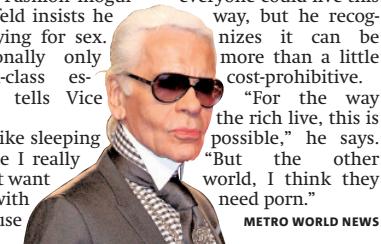
"I don't like sleeping with people I really love. I don't want to sleep with them because

sex cannot last, but affection can last forever. I think this is healthy."

The designer wishes everyone could live this way, but he recognizes it can be more than a little cost-prohibitive.

"For the way the rich live, this is possible," he says. "But the other world, I think they need porn."

METRO WORLD NEWS



GETTY IMAGES

Blind siding Ms. Bullock

AND AFTER THAT ACCEPTANCE SPEECH ABOUT PICKING THE RIGHT GUY ... DOESN'T IT MAKE YOU FEEL A LITTLE ILL? Sandra Bullock is reportedly set to split from husband Jesse James, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The Oscar-winning actress has been left heartbroken by allegations that the motorcycle enthusiast cheated on her with tattoo model Michelle (Bombshell) McGee and friends say there is now no way back for the couple.

A source told America's OK! magazine, "Sandra is devastated. Jesse has tried to smooth things over with her, but to no avail. She's still leaving him."

According to People magazine, the 45-year-old beauty left the marital home on Monday and has since cancelled a planned

trip to the UK next week to promote her movie The Blind Side — the film which won her the Best Actress Oscar.

On Wednesday, it was alleged James had enjoyed a fling with mother-of-two Michelle.

She claimed he had told her his marriage to the actress was over and romanced her while Bullock was away filming The Blind Side.

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Follow these celebrities on Twitter...

CelebTweets

WYCLEF JEAN is trying to ignore what people say about him, **NEIL PATRICK HARRIS** can't believe the life he's living, and **SAMANTHA RONSON** has some advice for Homeland Security.



@wyclef

When Donkeys spread rumors about me I don't Respond cause I'm the master that leads them to the Well to drink the Water.

@ActuallyNPH

As if life couldn't get much more surreal these past weeks (oscars, glee), I'm about to board a private jet to Vegas with JLo and the Rock.

@samantharonson

If TSA workers all had a shot of whiskey every few hours the airport would be a much happier place.

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P. Diddy's 'Play-ahs'?

LET THE GAMES BEGIN P. Diddy has apparently become so obsessed with soccer that he's considering buying a British team, according to the Sun.

"Diddy was in London meeting football fixers a couple of weeks ago. The finance is in place, he's just deciding who he thinks he'll make a bid for," a source says.

"Portsmouth — who are also in severe debt — were mentioned, but he thought Palace were a better idea. He could cover their debt and bankroll a return to the Premier League. He liked the name as well."

METRO WORLD NEWS



Daughter of a preacher man

THE WHITE GOWN GOES ON AND RELIGIOUS ROOTS COME OUT Katy Perry wants to get married in a church, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The singer — whose parents Mary and Keith Hudson are both Christian pastors — reportedly told her fiancée, British comedian Russell Brand,

she wanted to tie the knot at a location close to her Los Angeles home, but turned down his suggestion of a recording studio at the Sunset Marquis hotel.

"Russell has been visiting the hotel for years and it is steeped in rock 'n' roll history," a

source told the Daily Mirror newspaper. "It's in the middle of West Hollywood, but it has beautiful gardens and you feel like you are in some kind of tranquil paradise."

Although his request was rejected, he has told Katy, 25, he is willing to go along with her ideas for her dream day.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



He didn't go down the Hall way

BUT THERE MAY BE SKELETONS IN THE CLOSET Director Sam Mendes is slamming a British tabloid report that his marriage to Kate Winslet ended because of an affair with British actress Rebecca Hall, usmagazine.com reports.

Following Monday's announced breakup of Winslet, 34, and Mendes, 44, after seven years of

marriage, Britain's Daily Mail newspaper claimed that Mendes and Hall became romantically involved after meeting in 2006.

A rep for Mendes calls the charge "utter nonsense..."

untrue and ridiculous."

Sources have told Us Weekly that it wasn't infidelity but career-related issues that caused Winslet and Mendes' marriage to unravel.

Mendes found his wife "overbearing" while they filmed Revolutionary Road together in 2007.

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